

THE GATEWAY

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PAUL SWANSON

HE'S GOT 99 PROBLEMS, BUT PERFORMING AIN'T ONE Rapper and entrepreneur Jay-Z transformed Edmonton into New York City on Tuesday night, playing to a near-capacity crowd at Rexall Place.

Fairness week underway on campus

BRENDAN CAVANAGH
News Writer

Fairness Week kicked off on Tuesday in tandem with the 200th anniversary of the ombudsperson — a “fairness-watchdog,” so to speak.

The traditional role of the ombudsperson is to objectively investigate, evaluate, and make recommendations in regards to fairness in institutional processes. Fairness Week is put on by the Alberta Ombudsman, the Student OmbudService, the Student's Union, and the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights. It's aimed at educating the U of A community about resources available to them that help to ensure that they're treated fairly.

“The goal [of Fairness Week] is to raise people's awareness in regards to the value of fair-process in problem solving and dispute resolution,” explained Wade King, an advisor from the on-campus Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights, and one of the event organizers.

Tuesday's fairness happenings comprised of a display from the Alberta Ombudsman on the SUB Main Floor.

Investigators Daniel Johns, who approached the University with the idea of Fairness Week, and Lee Boyd, as well as the director of corporate service Glen Resler, were scheduled to attend and to explain the role of the Alberta Ombudsman.

“[My duty] is to accept and investigate complaints made by citizens of Alberta regarding the fairness of their government,” said Gord Button, current ombudsperson for the province.

Alberta opened the first ombudsperson office in



SAM BROOKS

PLAY FAIR Jim Bohun recommends that U of A students utilize OmbudServices to resolve any type fairness related issues on campus.

North America in 1967, though the concept was first established in Sweden in 1809.

Today, there is one ombudsperson in every province and territory in Canada. Each ombudsperson is appointed by their respective legislative assembly.

PLEASE SEE **FAIRNESS** ♦ PAGE 5

2010/11 tuition, fees could rise with \$59-million gap

JONATHAN TAVES
Deputy News Editor

Students may want to start squeezing every penny this year, as the University of Alberta administration is considering various possibilities to negate a \$59-million shortfall in next year's budget.

On the table are possible increases in service fees, and increased instances of differential tuition across faculties, explained U of A Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein in a two-hour presentation and question period at a packed Students' Council meeting on Tuesday.

The administration has proposed splitting the burden evenly between staff, students, and administrative costs at \$20 million each. That figure demands an extra \$540 per student.

“Right now, nobody's relaxing,” Amrhein said. “What we are looking at is a two-year period with dramatically depressed government revenue.”

Natural gas prices have declined significantly, hurting the provincial government's revenue stream, he said.

The U of A had anticipated a drop from a six per cent to three per cent increase in their provincial grant allocation, approximately 67 per cent of the 2010/11 operating budget.

As the provincial budget began to materialize, however, the U of A was notified that the

amount would remain stagnant, meaning a loss of an additional \$15.3 million in expected funding, Amrhein explained.

This, coupled with dismal interest income on other accounts and a reduction in expected tuition totals, added to the deficit.

“This is a shared burden,” he said. “Nobody's excited about paying more or earning less.”

Tuition is scheduled to increase by 1.5 per cent this year as legislated with calculations based on the Alberta consumer price index, but the University had originally budgeted for a 3.2 per cent boost.

“We've got a lot of different things we've got to balance in terms of meeting the funding gap,” said Vice President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark.

Every U of A department was already asked to cut two per cent from their 2009/10 budgets.

“We've already built that reduction plus the allocation of expenditures into the 2010/11 budget,” she said.

Clark explained many administrative efficiencies will likely be implemented for 2010/11 savings, including consolidated email and payroll systems, “smart forms” for quicker payroll entry, and joint purchasing efforts with other institutions within Campus Alberta.

“We can be more efficient and it doesn't reduce the quality of life for students; in fact, it increases it,” she said.

PLEASE SEE **DEFICIT** ♦ PAGE 3

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Short-term comics

Is it possible to write a 24-page comic book in 24 hours? The folks at Happy Harbor certainly seemed to think so.

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Long-term comas

Is it possible to record a new album even when your bassist is comatose? Don't tell the Deftones if you disagree.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of **FENICE**, **Joanna**, **Kepler** and **Whitney**. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are *Left 4 Dead* and *Fukahara*.

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“ Since there's media in the room, I'm going to try to resist the urge to make flippant, sarcastic comments.

CARL AMRHEIN

U of A Provost and Vice President (Academic)

—While introducing his presentation

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Jonathan Taves

*Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, where free food will be provided for all attendees.**Council Chambers was filled to the brim yesterday with lively participants. Before digging into discussion however, attendees enjoyed a meal of caesar salad and pasta with meat sauce. So if you're at all interested in student government is run, stop by next time, fill a plate, and satisfy your democractic appetite.*

MONEY — IT'S A GAS

Council heard a presentation from U of A Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein about the \$59-million deficit facing the administration next year. Though Council presentations are usually limited to 15 minutes, councillors voted to abolish the cap for Amrhein's discussion. The question portion extended it up to nearly two hours. Amrhein said that changes to tuition and user fees, and staffing cuts may be required to bridge the gap. Details are included on page 1.

I HAVE A PLAN

Amrhein and Vice President (Research) Lorne Babiuk presented to Council for the direction of the institution's new

academic plan. The plan, named Dare to Deliver II, will be drafted in the new year, but the vice presidents outlined the tenets they're looking to include. Babiuk would like to build the U of A's image to make it a highly desirable destination for top students. Following the direction made by the SU's academic plan contribution, Dare to Deliver II will increase the emphasis on undergraduate research.

Priorities will have to be determined given the fiscal climate, and the document will reflect very specific areas which will improve the student experience. These benchmarks will be set with "crisply defined metrics" that can tangibly track improvements and measure success. Babiuk would like to foster a mindset of lifelong learning among U of A students by engaging them both in and out of the classroom.

Another targeted area is donors and alumni, who the administration would like to provide more for student scholarships. He also cited the recent partnership between the U of A and the German Group, the Helmholtz Association.

Programs such as student and professor exchanges, and research collaboration represent the direction the U of A would like to take with other universities and organizations as well. Amrhein informally appointed SU Vice President (Academic) Leah Trueblood to be the student voice when the drafting process of the plan begins in December.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SU President Kory Mathewson talked about his flagship project, the online 2009 Undergraduate Student Survey. The survey was released this Tuesday,

and in the first 12 hours, 4,500 students filled it out. Mathewson thinks that this shows the students' desire to have their voices heard. He also noted that the offered prizes may also have spurred the replies. The target response Mathewson hoped to reach was 6,000, which has already been hit. The survey will run for at least two weeks.

THE WAY OF THE DODO

Vice President (Academic) Leah Trueblood explained that she's aware of rumblings within University Hall that are looking towards abolishing the bell curve for all classes. She noted that Vice-Provost and Dean of Students Frank Robinson is leading the movement.

THE LADIES' LIBATION

Vice President (Operations and Finance) Zach Fentiman released the results of Room at the Top's naming competition for its mystery beer. "Wicked Panda" won by a large margin. Fentiman noted there was a concentrated campaign by the varsity teams.

MAKE IT COUNT

Council passed Bill 9 in second reading that will limit any student group or organization that collects a dedicated fee unit be limited to a maximum of one DFU.

GAC ATTACK

Council approved Bill 11 in second reading that will restructure how the administrative budget of the Student Access Fund is decided. Instead of limiting it to five per cent of the Access Fund's total budget, it will be the responsibility of the Grant Allocation Committee.

CAMPUS DIGEST

Compiled by Jonathan Taves and Sean Steels

ALL ABOARD

City councillors announced Wednesday that they would only approve the first three years of the proposed U-Pass program continuation. The original proposition had been for four years, but Council decided to limit the duration, which allows negotiation to reopen for the 2013/14 school year. U of A students will go to a referendum in March to approve the new prices of \$91 per term next year, \$104 in 2011/12, and \$116 in 2012/13.

SPARE SOME CHANGE

Lister Centre will host ChangeCamp this Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will discuss the role of government and citizenship in a changing political and technological landscape.

Organizers are using the Internet to enhance the dialogue between "citizens, policy-makers, technologists, design-thinkers, change agents, and media creators." Interested people can register at www.changecampedmonton.ca.

FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

The Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences will be offering information sessions on its new Bachelor of Science in Animal Health degree, which will be offered beginning January of 2010.

Sessions will take place in CAB 2-81 at 5 p.m., and in room 106 of the Agricultural/Forestry Centre at 12:30 p.m. on October 22. The new program is unique in Canada and offers three majors: food animals, food safety and quality, and companion and performance animals.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Pete Yee and Sean SteelsKaylee Gloeckler
Education IVStephanie Richmond
Education IVGeorge Newton
Education
After-degreeBrianna Roth
Education IV

Lots of bake sales, maybe some sexy car washes. Maybe we could get rid of some of the bad professors by actually reading students' reviews.

Lots and lots of bake sales, and maybe a really big-name concert. I'd like to see them bring in the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Bake sales. It seems like they've invested a lot of money in outdoor water fixtures. There are some things that I think are less appropriate to be spending tuition on, and that's one of them.

Maybe hold a bake sale, or maybe get external businesses to come alongside and contribute to the problem.

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Differential tuition a possibility



PETE YEE

TOUGH PILL Provost Carl Amrhein explains the difficult budget choices the University must make to eliminate its deficit.

DEFICIT ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Increased user fees for services such as wireless Internet, or differential tuition are possible avenues to achieve an income boost from the student side.

“Each of the faculties has an internationally defined market from which they recruit professors. If you look at the average salaries for a professor of finance or accounting versus the average salary for a professor of English literature, you’ll see there’s a very large multiplier,” Amrhein noted.

Differential course fees were introduced for some faculties in 2003. Currently, students in Medicine, Law, Dentistry, Nursing, and the MBA program pay more for their educations than other students.

Those discrepancies may become more pronounced and spread to other departments as the U of A tries to balance its bottom line.

“If we don’t have the professional programs affecting the true underlying cost of staffing those programs, then the entire University subsidizes the differentially high costs of the professional faculties,” Amrhein continued.

Despite other aspects of the consolidated budget being more long-term, such as money committed to capital projects like new buildings, no funds can be temporarily diverted.

“There is no way we can move money from the capital budget into the [operating] budget. We must use the capital money for the exact purpose the government intended,” Amrhein said. “If we did we’d simply lose the buildings; it wouldn’t help the budget.”

The administration is trying to avoid cutting staff positions to save money.

“If we get to a staff reduction phase, we will do it in a very balanced fashion,” Amrhein said. “It’s a people business, everything we do requires people [...] We don’t think we have a bunch of extra professors that we don’t need.”

But even facing staff cuts and boosted fees, the University is also unable to go into debt.

The Post-Secondary Learning Act prevents the submission of “a budget in which consolidated operating expense exceeds consolidated operating revenue unless the board has the approval of the [Advanced Education and Technology]

Minister to do so.”

Asking for the minister’s approval for debt isn’t a responsible action either, Clark explained.

“Because accounts are restricted on the capital and research side, then we’re borrowing money to pay for day-to-day bills, a very short-term strategy,” she said. “It’s kind of like borrowing to cover your grocery needs. At a certain point, you just can’t keep doing it.”

Administration wants to avoid actions that would hurt the U of A’s competitiveness or quality, such as reducing library hours or student services.

SU President Kory Mathewson supported this sentiment.

“We’re getting as much information as possible,” he said. “We know the gap is substantial; we just hope that an accessible, affordable education isn’t at risk here.”

The administrators noted their intention to include the SU in each step of the ongoing budget decisions.

“We’ve really stepped up to make sure we keep everybody apprised,” Clark said.

Disabled benefit from self-determination

MEGHAN PRINS
News Writer

Everyone enjoys free time, but a recent University of Saskatchewan study shows that structures of leisure affect more than just the recreational aspect of the lives of women with mental disabilities.

Brenda Rossow-Kimball, a post-graduate researcher at the U of A, and Donna Goodwin, Director of the Steadward Centre for Personal & Physical Achievement at the U of A studied five intellectually disabled women between the ages of 44 and 60 living in two different group homes.

Rossow-Kimball carried out the study as a M.Sc. student at the U of S.

They observed the way leisure was set up in each home and the effects it had on the residents. Though each home claimed to have a policy promoting the importance of self-determined leisure, this philosophy was not employed in both.

In one home, residents were taught to make their own decisions regarding their time, but in the other, leisure was completely staff-directed.

“The primary focus is just different between homes: manage the home versus teach the women,” Rossow-Kimball said.

Similar activities were conducted in

both homes, such as cooking, making crafts, and watching television. In one home, however, women were equipped with the ability to engage in leisure whenever they chose, and in the other, leisure was dependent on whether or not a staff member had time to assist residents.

What the difference boils down to, according to Rossow-Kimball, is a value for teaching in one home and a neglect of it the other.

“The primary focus is just different between homes: manage the home versus teach the women.”

BRENDA ROSSOW-KIMBALL
POST-GRADUATE RESEARCHER, U OF A

“Staff recognized how important it was to teach the women leisure, simply because the women have a right to make their own choices,” she said. “The staff [in the other home] felt it took too much time to teach the women leisure skills.”

The significance of self-determined leisure is that all five women were approaching retirement age, and those in the home with staff-directed

recreation were not equipped with the skills to fill their time on their own. The women living in the home where leisure was regulated by staff were provided with little opportunity to make choices, and were less capable of learning new skills and even taking care of themselves.

“The biggest difference between the two groups of women is preparation for retirement,” Rossow-Kimball said.

Allowing the women to make their own decisions enables them to discover their own interests and will therefore enrich their retirement. Rossow-Kimball stated that by encouraging the women to engage in independent leisure the home caretakers are letting those in the home know that they can make their own decisions.

The study also highlights how self-directed leisure is crucial for everyone, and not just those with disabilities.

When free time was spent according to personal interests the women were more confident and more capable of making decisions. Therefore, self-directed leisure better enabled the women to maximize their abilities and to reach their full potential, and this is something that applies to everyone.

“The main take-home message is that self-determined leisure is essential for anyone to enhance engagement in a lifetime of leisure activities,” Rossow-Kimball stated.

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University enrolment decreases across the country

Male enrolment is down, while female enrolment has increased in science and mathematics

DEREK SCHUTZ
News Writer

Far greater numbers of women than of men are enrolling in undergraduate programs at Canadian universities, and the University of Alberta may even be the epitome of the trend.

While female full-time enrolment in undergraduate programs at the U of A in 2008 totalled over 14,000, male enrolment trailed significantly at just under 11,000, according to data from the U of A Registrar's office.

By comparison, in 1996, enrolment was much more even, with about 13,500 females and almost 12,000 males. These totals, however, may have more to do with Alberta's economy than it does with the province's males said Amy Kaler, a sociology professor at the U of A.

"There's a lot more opportunities out there for young men with just high school to make a lot of money," Kaler said.

But enrolment at other Canadian universities is confirming this trend. At the University of Toronto, female undergraduate enrolment amounted to just under 26,000 while male enrolment was just under 20,000.

However, this growing trend is not just caused by the lack of male enrolment at universities across Canada. Female enrolment has increased in recent years due in part to the gains that female students have made in enrolment in the faculties of Science and Engineering,

though this hasn't been mirrored in male enrolment in Arts.

"Girls have made up ground in the science- and math-based subjects, but we haven't seen the same thing going on with boys in language and arts and humanities," Kaler said.

In fact, the only three faculties where males outnumbered females were Engineering, Business, and Graduate Studies.

Despite the fact that undergraduate faculties feed into the graduate program, the female-to-male ratio doesn't remain consistent.

"Women go on to postsecondary education in greater numbers than men but they don't necessarily go on to the advanced degrees in greater numbers than men," Kaler said. "It's been called a leaky pipeline — that men and women get poured into the pipeline, but women kind of leak out at various points."

This may be partly attributed to the fact that more female students are enrolled in faculties that result in a job after degree completion like Education and Nursing.

"A lot of women in my sociology class are in education. They want to be teachers because they love teaching, and they love working with kids. But also a lot of them say that 'I can't coordinate this with having a family,'" Kaler said. "I think women are still socialized to look at jobs and occupations in terms of how will this affect a partner or affect children."

Nonetheless, the effect an undergraduate degree has on the division



PETEYEE

BREAKING EVEN? Students in the Faculty of Education are leading the pack in terms in female enrolment, but are still lacking in male enrolment.

of unpaid work and the increase in salary is always positive.

"All other things being equal, married couples where both parties have a postsecondary education [are] likely to have a closer division of labour than a married couple where one has a PhD and one has just high school," Kaler said. "If you compare women with bachelors, and men with bachelors, men still

out-earn women, but it narrows the gap."

However, this trend isn't all positive, as the possibility arises for university education to become stigmatized in the eyes of high school boys, Kaler noted.

"It's important to not let university become what girls do, to ensure that boys in high school don't start thinking 'that's girlie,'" she said.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Sean Steels

DESIGNATED WALKER

Just after midnight on October 9, Lister Centre staff reported a female resident was too intoxicated to get out of a taxi that was dropping her off and requested CSS assistance.

An officer attended and aided the resident to her floor. She was left in the care of sober friends.

ALL THE FLOORS LOOK THE SAME

Just after 2 a.m. on October 10, Lister Centre staff reported an unknown person had locked himself in a female resident's room. CSS attended and found an intoxicated male resident from a different floor who had wandered into the female's room and passed out.

Officers escorted the male back to his own room, where he was left in the care of sober individuals for the night.

EDUCATION RENOVATION

Just before 9 p.m. on October 11, a student reported an intoxicated, non-affiliated male acting suspiciously in the Education cafeteria. An officer attended and identified the male as someone who was previously trespassed and well known to Campus Security for sniffing paint thinner.

The man was arrested for public intoxication and issued a summons for trespassing. He was turned over to the Edmonton Police on outstanding warrants.

PARKING PONZI

Since the beginning of the school year, Campus Security has attended seven instances of parking permit fraud. CSS would like to remind all staff and students that altering your hourly/daily/monthly parking permit in any way results in a \$500 fine from Parking Services.

Additionally, students and staff run the risk of their vehicle being towed. Code of Student Behavior charges are also a possibility in the case of violations involving forged permits.

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Health care debate fills Polish Hall



SEAN STEELS

FULL HOUSE Diana Gibson spoke up against privatizing health care Tuesday night with Michael Rachlis at her side.

SEAN STEELS
Senior News Editor

Preliminary suggestions from the Alberta provincial government towards privatized health care were strongly condemned Tuesday night as an excess of 600 Edmontonians, health care users, and health experts descended on Polish Hall, located appropriately across the street from the Royal Alexandra hospital.

Though the topic on the future of health care at the Friends of Medicare public town hall meeting had all in attendance passionately debating, the words of Diana Gibson, research director at the University of Alberta's Parkland Institute and guest expert at the event, were among the most heavily weighed.

"I am optimistic these days about health care in Alberta," her presentation began on a positive note, "Because it seems that with a couple of press releases, we can magic away nursing shortages. With the wave of a wand, we can make bed shortages disappear."

As Gibson, and her co-presenter Michael Rachlis, a health policy analyst and best-selling author went on to explain, shortages are anywhere from being over in the province.

"We still have an acute bed shortage here. In fact, we're in the bottom 25 of the most wealthy economies, called the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development].

We're in the bottom 25 for top nations in health care beds per capita. We have the worst wait for access to doctors in all of the OECD," Gibson stressed.

She also pointed out that health care spending has been dropping in proportion to Canada's gross domestic product, citing a "45 per cent decrease from 1990 to 2006, from 25 per cent of our GDP to 12 per cent," and noted that the province's health care spending is the country's lowest as a percentage of the GDP.

Although Gibson's talk touched on many issues, including shortages, her core message was a full stop on the development of privatized health care delivery. Although the provincial government has denied any advances into privatized health insurance, Health Minister Ron Liepert himself announced last May that privatized delivery might be an option for the province.

"You can guarantee that when [the government] talks about introducing competition to the hospitals, that means less money, because it always does."

And according to Rachlis, government inclination that a privatized system will lower costs and help the government overcome this year's deficit are misguided. In his experience, privatized systems have always cost more.

"This is a change that [could] definitely be a lot more expensive for Albertans," he said. "I'm very concerned

that the government has made these suggestions."

To prove his point, he brought up numerous personal examples of public health care solutions across the province that had decreased wait times drastically, citing a doctor in Pincher Creek, a small town in southern Alberta, who had reduced his own wait times to practically zero by better utilizing public resources.

"We have to fix our public sector with public health care solutions, and we should stop trying to get rid of medicare," he said, citing Alberta's pioneering of medicare as essential to the program's spread across the country.

But despite the night's presentations and subsequent discussion being a general flogging of privatized health care, desire for dialogue with the government on the topic was still high on the agenda, according to Dave Eggen, a U of A graduate in Education and executive director of Friends of Medicare.

"The temperature has been rising on this health care debate, and part of the problem is that people need information and answers," he said.

"It's time to have a conversation about what we want in terms of health care systems and what we as a society should be having," Gibson added.

Last night's meeting was the first of several town hall meetings on health care that will take place across the province.

OmbudService ensures fair dealing at U of A

FAIRNESS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The dealings of the Alberta ombudsperson concerning students often have to do with financial issues such as unfair assessments in granting assistance.

In contrast, the ombudsman service provided on campus, OmbudService, offers advice to students as to how they might best articulate their case and ensures that rights and rules are properly understood and followed by both parties, though they have no decision-making ability.

"We are advocates for fairness," said Jim Bohun, ombudsperson from OmbudService. "We basically guide students through administrative processes on campus."

Issues investigated by the campus organization often pertain to disciplinary issues, such as academic misconduct or disorderly conduct, but also extend to include interpersonal conflicts between students and professors,

or even between roommates.

Any student facing a formal charge under the Code of Student Behaviour should be informed that this service exists and is available to them as a resource.

"We are advocates for fairness. We basically guide students through administrative processes on campus."

JIM BOHUN
OMBUDSPERSON FROM OMBUDSERVICE

Events for Fairness Week continued on Wednesday in SUB 2-725, with an invitation to the University of Alberta community — particularly on-campus groups and services — to attend

the Forum on Fairness, facilitated by the event organizers.

On Thursday from 3–4:30 p.m. there will be an open house in the Safe Discloser and Human Rights office (312 Campus Towers) intended to inform the University community about what the SDHR has to offer.

This body functions very much like the OmbudService, and as it states in its information brochure, "[SDHR Advisors] will assist individuals to identify the most effective means of resolution for their concern and will follow up to ensure the process is going as expected."

Additionally, the organization is a resource for those with human rights questions or concerns.

The U of A OmbudService office is in SUB 5-02 and can also be reached by phone at 780-492-4689, emailed at ombudsman@ualberta.ca, or at uofaweb.ualberta.ca/ombudservice.

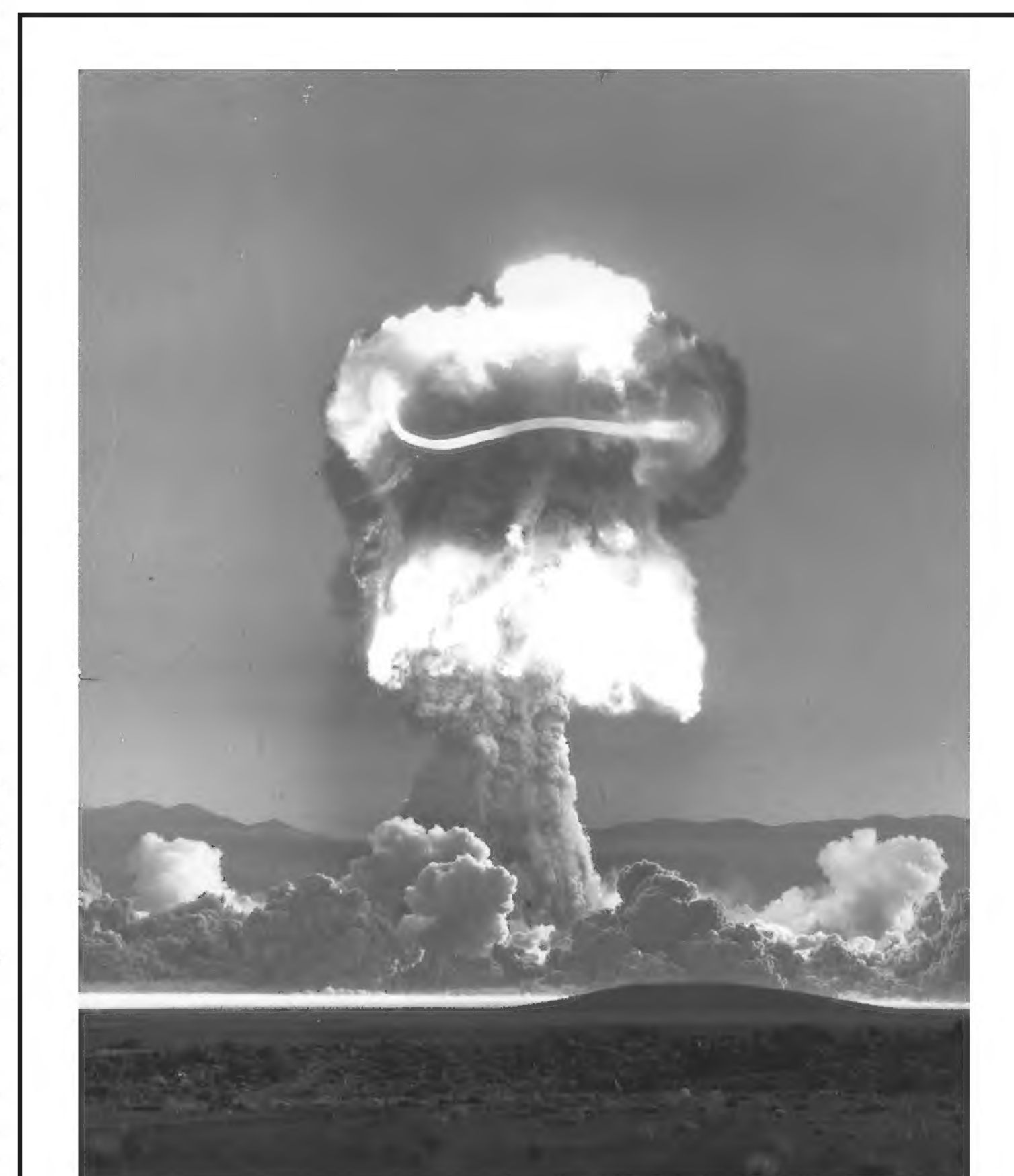
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FACT

47 years ago yesterday an American U2 reconnaissance plane took photos of Russian nuclear missile sites being assembled on bases in Cuba. The photos ignited the Cuban Missile Crisis, the closest the world has ever come to nuclear war.

FACT:

After both reading a particularly well-written article in an October 1962 news section of the *Gateway* which outlined the potentially apocalyptic conclusion to the conflict, Premier Khrushchev and President Kennedy came to their senses and reached an agreement to dismantle the weapons two weeks later.

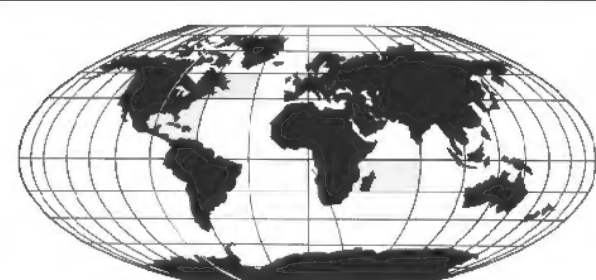
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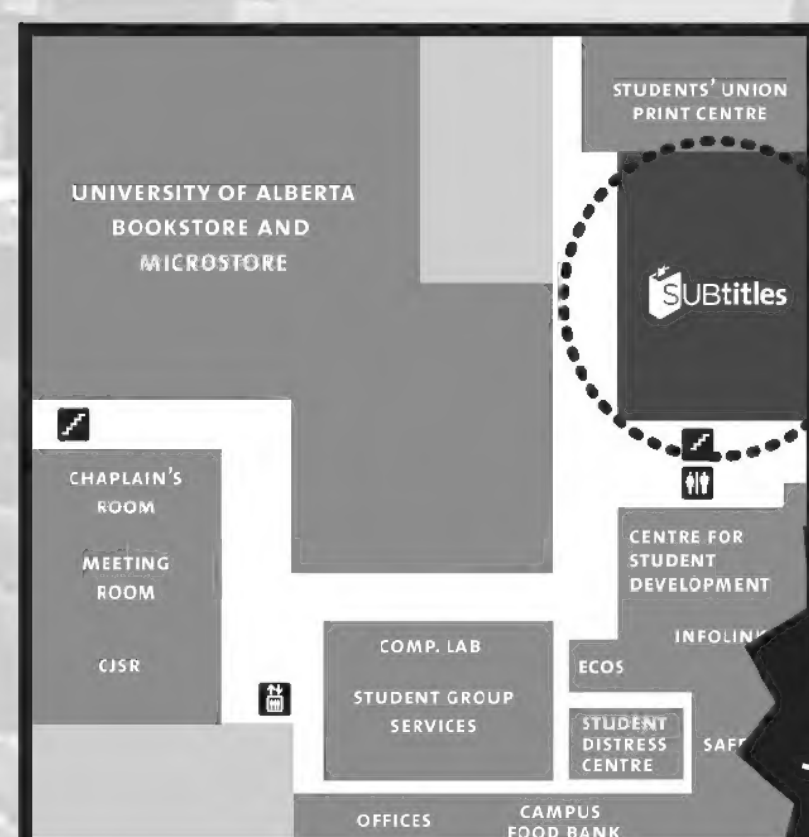
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Dalai Lama speaks with McGill students

EMILY CLARE
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP) — His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama held a private audience with Quebec education students, after he learned of the provincial government's introduction of a controversial ethics and religious culture class to primary and secondary students.

The 74-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner made two presentations in Montreal on October 3 — one to a 500-person invite-only event hosted by McGill's Faculty of Education, and a second to a crowd of 14,000 people at the Bell Centre.

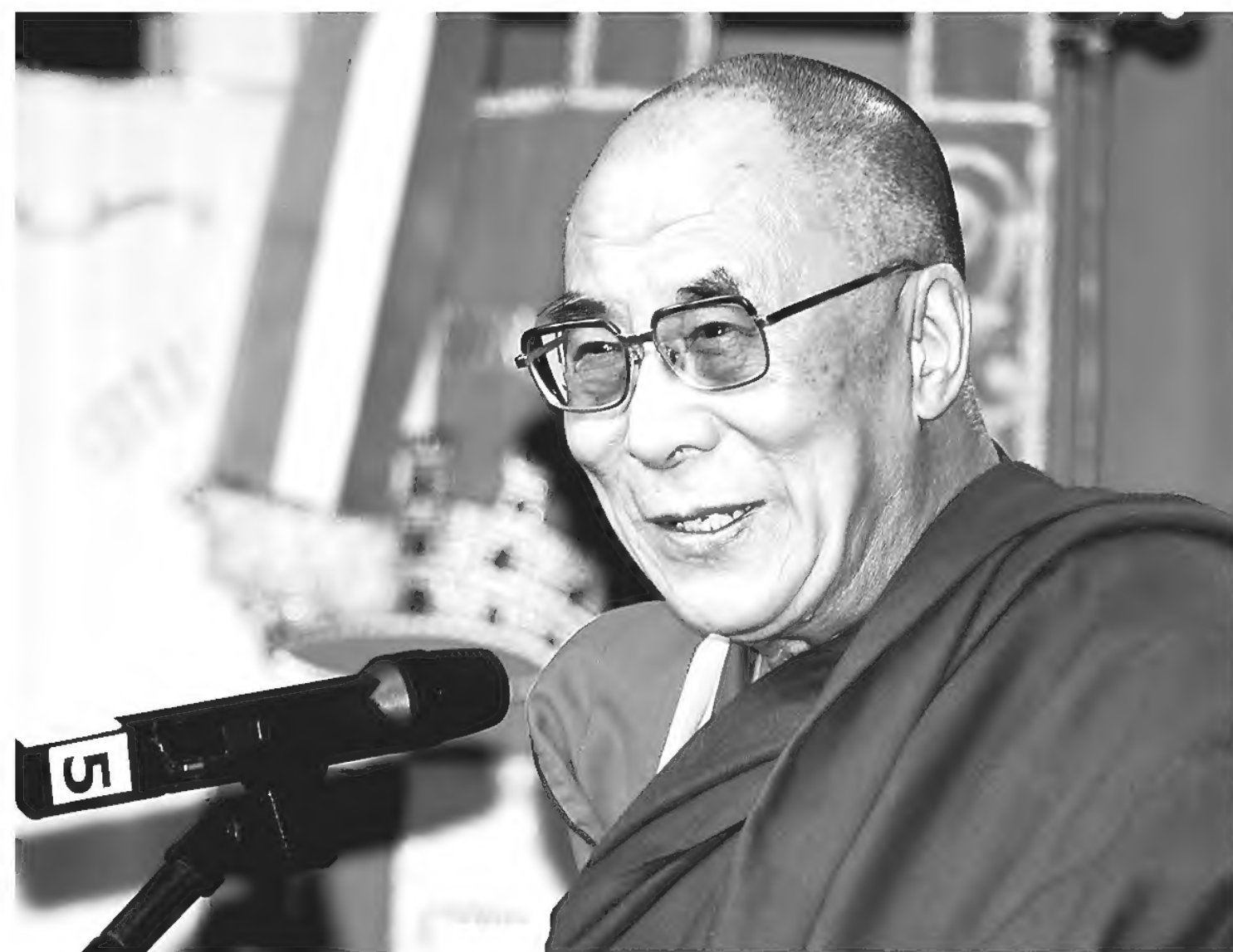
During both addresses, the Dalai Lama emphasized the need for a balance between intellectualized faith and secular ethics.

"His Holiness was interested in speaking with students involved to support the notion that human values, ethical issues, and respect for religious and secular traditions is a positive initiative," said Education professor Spencer Boudreau, McGill's ombudsman and the main organizer of the event. He said that religion "is part of our culture and history; it's a powerful force in the world [that] we've neglected."

Due to the limited tickets available for the McGill talk, the McGill organizing committee decided to stream the two-hour event on learnquebec.org, where it is still available to site users.

During the McGill address, the Dalai Lama stressed to education students that instilling a positive religious tolerance in youth was critical for a compassionate society.

"Please carry your profession with sincere motivation and a sense of global responsibility," the Dalai Lama said. "At least, with some aim or goal [that] out of this century, a more compassionate



LUCA GALUZZI

GLOBE TROTTER The Dalai Lama's Montreal visit led him to the Bell Centre.

world [will come]."

Mitchell Miller, president of the Education Undergraduate Society, had the opportunity to sit with the Dalai Lama. Miller was selected to thank His Holiness on behalf of the anglophone universities in Quebec.

"Sometimes it feels like there is a lot of unnecessary self-deprecation among students in this faculty. [The Dalai Lama's visit] was a reaffirmation for us as educators of the power that we can have," Miller said.

Heather Monroe-Blum, McGill's principal (president) and vice-chancellor, was the master of ceremonies.

Later that day, during his presentation at the Bell Centre, His Holiness asserted that he had no political or spiritual agenda. Instead, he hoped to articulate the need of shared links between humanity, to be compassionate, and work to make the world a better place.

"I am talking as a human being to another human being. Not as a monk,

Buddhist, or Tibetan," he said.

Nonetheless, the event took on a political tone as both Chinese and Uyghur protesters assembled outside. Tibet has been administered and controlled by the People's Republic of China since it occupied the territory in 1950. The Dalai Lama, recognized as the exiled political leader of Tibet, fled the territory in 1959 and is seen as a threat to the national identity and integrity of China.

"It's our country. We love it," one Chinese protester said, standing calmly with several others in objection to the Dalai Lama's visit to Montreal. A couple of Tibetans yelled at them to leave Canada and go back to China.

Members of the Uyghur community — a Muslim ethnic minority from Western China — demonstrated in solidarity with the Tibetans. They called on China to recognize their human rights, stating that they are "the other Tibetans."

Canadian broadband at 30th in world

Canada's high speed and dial up Internet networks will soon fall behind the international standards and won't be able to meet new bandwidth demands

ISHMAEL N. DARO
The Sheaf (University of Saskatchewan)

SASKATOON (CUP) — A global study of Internet service shows Canada is falling behind in terms of broadband quality and may not be able to keep up with future needs.

The University of Oviedo in Spain and the Said Business School at Oxford University studied millions of user records to reach their conclusions, placing Canada 30th in terms of broadband quality.

Canadian broadband quality slipped from 26th in 2008 to its current ranking. Broadband Internet service is considered as anything faster than 56-kilobits-per-second dial-up service.

Canada also placed 30th for download speed, 31st for upload speed, and 17th for "broadband leadership," meaning total access and broadband quality.

Alec Couros, professor of educational technology and media at the University of Regina, said Canada's lacklustre showing is partly due to the "connectivist agenda" of the 1990s.

"I think the metric they started out with was connecting every school, connecting all over the nation, and worrying less about the actual delivery of data over those networks," Couros said.

Today, Canada's broadband infrastructure is able to handle tasks such as social networking, basic video chat,

and small file sharing adequately. But as high-definition video and large file sharing become more popular in the next three to five years, the system will fall behind, according to the broadband study.

Particularly with media companies embracing social networking and other new technologies, the demands on the system are likely to continue growing.

Couros has harnessed the power of the web to keep in touch with colleagues and students alike, for both private and professional purposes. He points to Oprah Winfrey using Skype to interview guests on her show as an example of how pervasive social media has become.

"While I don't really care what Oprah is doing, it actually helps my job as a professor because all my students now know what Skype is," Couros said.

The top broadband leaders are Sweden, Japan, and South Korea, where governments have put strong emphasis on updating and extending their Internet systems.

The study finds a strong correlation between broadband quality and "a nation's advancement as a knowledge economy" — investing in technology and Internet infrastructure has real economic impact.

But another aspect of falling behind in broadband quality is its social impact. For Couros, the educational and political uses of the Internet are

far more important. He noted that governments should focus on net neutrality — keeping the Internet accessible to users without blocking sites or restricting activity — and broadband quality.

"The net has to be neutral and it has to be powerful and we have to be connected," he said. "It's going to change what it means to have a voice in society."

Countries like Japan and South Korea are already moving toward super-fast fibre networks while Canada is still mostly on cable or phone lines.

Saint John and Fredericton, New Brunswick are gearing up to become the first Canadian cities to be completely connected to a fibre optic broadband network.

The \$60-million project, which will provide customers with the highest bandwidth capacity to send and receive data, is being undertaken by Bell Aliant and is slated to be complete by mid-2010.

"Being connected is not enough," Couros said. "Being powerfully connected is more important."

Couros stressed the need to be linked with the new technology, comparing it to public utilities or Canada's health care system, in which everyone shares the costs.

"I'm willing to pay for other people to be connected. And it becomes an issue just as rich and as important as health care," he said.

Survey says ... well, nothing of particular interest

IF, LIKE ME, YOU ARE A STUDENT WITH THREE roommates and you shiver with delight at the thought of your own personal mini-fridge, then the chances that you caved and participated in the recent Students' Union survey are pretty high. However if, like me, you paid any attention to the questions you were answering, you might just have had the same thought running through your head: "Isn't this supposed to be a survey about the Students' Union?" Because sure, it asks some questions about you, a student — how much money you make, who pays your tuition, and how you get around. However, like me, you were probably bothered to find that the bulk of the survey seemed to focus on things that either shouldn't be a priority for our Students' Union or aren't within their direct control.

The SU seems to be hung up on a few issues that hogged the spotlight of their survey. "How is your educational experience?" and "How are you spending your money?" seemed to be the top competitors. While the first may appear to be a good question, looks can be deceiving. The circumstance of the students' lives within the classroom is one that the SU has minimal control over. Essentially the question asks if you'd like our trusty SU to whine at the University officials over tired issues like teaching assistants that barely speak English and apathetic professors. Because, let's face it — that's really all they're going to accomplish.

The other questions seem to reside under the heading of improving SU businesses, and while many students have complaints and concerns regarding food and shop services on campus, it should hardly be the Students' Union's chief concern. The survey showed little interest in the student experience beyond where they eat and how many dead prime ministers they were willing to hand over to do so. This (paired with the various inquiries about summer incomes, student loans and how your tuition gets paid) seemed to suggest that students who checked off the "my parents pay my tuition" box may have their requests taken more seriously. There were seemingly questions that worked the opposite way — designed to weed out the jokers and non-serious entries. After all, are people really going to select the "I'd like to see a unisex spa in SUB" option for anything other than comedic value?

Unfortunately, valuable free services offered by the SU were also glazed over. Initiatives like Safewalk, the Campus Food Bank, and the Student Distress Center were all covered with three questions: Do you know it exists? Do you think it's valuable? And do you use it? That's it. No room for comments, suggestions, or complaints. And thus no real room to speak. That isn't to say that the Students' Union completely ignored the works of their vice presidents beyond Zack Fentiman. There was one brief question regarding the Union's performance outside of their businesses, but it seemed to reek of being there simply because it had to be. Essentially, a quick "rate our effectiveness" scale with *again* no room to add the survey-taker's comments.

Sure, everything looks nicer on a neat and simple graph, but little productive change can come out of a survey so simplistic and money-minded. If students really want the SU to know what they think, then filling out this bare-bones survey isn't the way to do it. It might be a better idea to email, call, or beat down the door of SUB 2-900 if you want to tell the SU what you think. And while you're at it, inquire about the whereabouts of my free mini-fridge, because my limeade is starting to get warm.

KELSEY TANASIUK
Design & Production Editor

Mushrooms were used

Lou Albano died
Good night, Super Mario
No 1-Up for you

LUCAS WAGNER
Online Editor



Stephen Duckett's next move?

MARIE GOJMERAC

letters TO THE eds

Right writer rightly rights Write rites right away

As director of the Write program in the Department of English and Film Studies, I would like to address some of the assertions made in Grace Mehta's letter. ("Write and wrong, October 6")

First of all, portfolios are not required for the creative non-fiction Write courses. Portfolios are required for our introductory fiction and poetry workshops. For the fiction workshops I teach, portfolios are essential. Every year I receive far more applications than there are places in these classes. Portfolios allow me to make as fair a selection as I can, based on my primary goal of bringing together students who will be most helpful to one another as a workshop group because their writing demonstrates a similar level of experience. Write instructors do not favour any one genre or style over others. The emphasis of these courses is on helping students improve their writing, while encouraging them to explore whatever form or content they choose.

Economic conditions and stringent budgets are very real

constraints on what any department can do to address demand for popular courses. Adding a second section of Write 295 would be one way to ease the "bottleneck" of demand vs limited class space, and I am hopeful we will be able to offer extra sections in future. In the meantime, we also have responsibilities as a department to all students who take English classes, and to all the areas of study we cover. I should also point out that our Shakespeare classes are not "near-empty." Far from it.

Finally, I disagree strongly with Mehta's characterization of our department chair. It's a misrepresentation of someone who is unfailingly courteous, helpful, and professional.

THOMAS WHARTON
Write Program Director

Busy buses bus business via busted bus base

University students should vote against the increase in the price of the U-Pass in the next referendum. While I am a current user of the U-Pass, and I support the need for and creation of the U-Pass, the amount of this proposed increase is ridiculous. I believe the current price of the U-Pass is reasonable, for a

number of reasons.

For starters, every student must pay the fee, even though not every student uses the U-Pass. And for each student who does decide to use transit, it is questionable how much this actually costs the city. If a student who didn't ride the bus before the U-Pass was created gets on a bus, what does that cost the city? If the bus has extra room already for that student, the answer is "nothing." Therefore, students should be skeptical of the city's cost figures for the U-Pass.

Furthermore, Edmonton does not include all the cost savings that the U-Pass provides the city. These cost savings include spending less on road maintenance due to having fewer vehicles on the road, and less air pollution. While the reduction in pollution is not easy to give a dollar value to, it should certainly be taken into account. Any numbers for the deficit of the U-Pass that do not include the environmental savings should be disregarded in this debate. With the global warming crisis, we should be doing everything we can to encourage people to use mass transit instead of driving single occupancy vehicles as their main form of transportation.

Finally, we are students. Some of

us don't work due to extracurricular activities, and those of us who do only work part time. With the proposed increase in the price of the U-Pass, the U-Pass will cost each student over \$1000 over the course of a four-year degree. Anyone who thinks the City of Edmonton will not ask for another price increase after 2013/14 is kidding themselves. It is important for students to send the message that there is a limit to what we are willing to pay for the U-Pass.

For these reasons, students should reject the price increase to the U-Pass in the March referendum, and send our Students' Union reps back to the negotiating table to work out a reasonable, and sustainable cost structure for student transit.

CHARLIE BARNARD
Engineering IV

Nothing sounds like 'foot- ball, but we still got this letter

I wanted to pass on a big thank-you to the U of A Golden Bears football team.

A few weeks back at the onset of this cold weather, two of my sons had the opportunity to attend a football practice with the U of A Golden Bears at Foote Field.

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 9



Boys will be boys, but so will girls

HANNAH COCHRAN



“The trade-off for the ability to talk openly about poop? Stereotypical femininity. Bros don’t buy chick-bros drinks, carry their purses, or fake sympathy when their shoes hurt. You are, for better or worse, considered to be just one of the guys.”

This past Friday morning, I awoke, as is my custom, to the headache-inducing, eye-slicing sunlight that informed me of two things: first, that I was two hours late for work, and second, my ability to make wise decisions regarding alcohol consumption has not improved since I crested my 20th year. As I surveyed the evidence of the previous evening’s debauchery, and began the familiar ritual of showering, caffeinating, and disposing of the hobo’s body, a question found its way through the grimy haze: what the hell is a chick-bro?

Flash back to the previous evening. I’m standing outside a bar with a few dapper fellows as their raucous laughter changes to boozy solemnity. Trying my hardest to keep a straight face, I watch as they demonstrate proper hugging etiquette, and drunkenly recite edicts that just *had* to have been conceived satirically. To my growing recollective horror, however, I see my mockery change to inquiry, and my inquiry to participation, and in two pops of a polo collar, I have been inducted into the rank and file of bro-hood.

For all of you out there desperate to wear this questionable mantle, the entry requirements are quite low. Really, all one needs to become

a chick-bro is to be fairly generous with one’s cigarettes. Just like prison. The willingness to objectify breasts, and some ambivalent sexuality may also come into play, but, to my surprise and confusion you don’t actually need a penis to become a bro. Apparently.

But what happens next? Obviously my initiators were long gone, but so many questions remained. Now that I have achieved bro-dom, what are my duties? What are the advantages? Do I need to buy new hair products? Pausing only to tilt my hat to a rakish, sleuthy angle, and dramatically — if unnecessarily — push an old woman out of my way, I set off.

As it turns out, chick-bros are more common than I thought. There are slews of women who shun the lifestyle of your average bar star, and would rather drink their booze, make crude jokes, and contribute to discussions regarding the attractiveness of random female passers-by. The trade-off for the ability to talk openly about poop? Stereotypical femininity. Bros don’t buy chick-bros drinks, carry their purses, or fake sympathy when their shoes hurt. You are, for better or worse, considered to be just one of the guys.

Superficially, this seemed pretty awesome. I love alcohol and jokes, and I would indeed appreciate an

alternative to being hit on. But the world of chick-bro-hood has a dark side. The animosity that chick-bros have towards other women is uncomfortable, to say the least. Is being obnoxious the only way to gain non-sexual respect from the male gender? I’m usually vehemently in favour of eliminating gender roles, but to accomplish this by assuming the guise of the emotionally crippled, often misogynistic stereotype of the bro? Current feminist theory specifies that women aren’t held to some higher standard, but are entitled to the essential human right to be ass-hats. I don’t want to throw out the baby with the Jägerbombs, but I do like to imagine a world where there are no ass-hats.

I eventually walked away from my search, firstly, with more questions than answers, and secondly, six hours late for work. But I’m certain about one thing — we live in a world of dealing with the repercussions of the gender role shifts of the past 50 years, and we will continue to be stymied by these redefined boundaries for years to come. Personally, I probably won’t be living up to my newly acquired status very often, mainly because I have other, more important, things to think about. Like the fact that I have to find a new place to bury October’s hoboes.

VIDEO GAME ANTIQUITIES:



ELECTRIC SACKBOY

Recently, the creators of electric-superhero story *inFamous* and cutesy costume platformer *LittleBigPlanet* shoved their PS3 games together in a merchandising tie-in. The result was a darling pair of dress-up costumes, designed to make Sackboy look like Cole McGrath — good version or evil version. The ultimate effect is somewhere between charming and deeply disturbing. Which sounds about right.

Gateway Opinion is all about colliding two great tastes that taste great together — even when those tastes happen to be costumes on weird possessed voodoo dolls. We’ve got a whole rack of voices and opinions waiting for you to try them on, though, so ride a powerline up to SUB 3-04 on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. or drop us a line at opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca. We’ll pick out something pretty for you to wear.

We can’t promise merchandising tie-ins, but they’re at least a long-term goal.

GATEWAY Opinion

making rather SHOCKING
FASHION CHOICES SINCE 1910

Don’t drink and write, or you’re a study idiot — midterms and alcohol don’t mix

ULIANA ROSKINA



This much I know: I am not going to let freshmen make the same mistakes I’ve made during my undergrad years. I am here today to pass on my wisdom and prevent you from failing your midterms and finals, so read carefully. Passing your exams is determined by only one factor, whether or not you will follow this simple rule: do *not* get shit-faced the night before your test, because you will regret it.

Yes, studies have shown that writing tests under the influence of alcohol or drugs actually can be successful. We’ve all heard the stories of people who have been irresponsible enough to try it, and they’re still alive. But let’s be frank: there is nothing worse than being hung over the morning of your midterm.

Tossing back flaming Sambuca shots on the eve of your exam will not produce any supernatural effects or potion-borne powers. When you’re hung over, or heaven forbid, still drunk instead of focusing on answering the questions, you have to force your eyes to stay open. The dancing letters don’t make sense, the walls are closing in, and every single

sound seems ten times louder.

It also doesn’t help to have a mid-test inquiry hindered by the effects of a late-night bender. You may try, fruitlessly, to inconspicuously hide your intoxication and start walking to the front of the auditorium, holding on to a wall for dear life, knocking down a chair *en route*.

Finally, at the end of your journey, when you lean in to speak to your professor, he looks at you with a mix of disbelief and judgment. The residue of alcohol on your breath prompts a dirty scowl, and this is your clue to go back to your seat.

The most dangerous part of being mangled during a midterm is the effect that alcohol has on your self-esteem. Trick questions have no tricks anymore, because your normal balance of brain chemistry is upset.

This completely hypothetical example is not the worst-case scenario either. Imagine how your stomach will feel the morning after. Just several hours ago, you were essentially a human-shaped bottle of tequila, wrestling topless or diving into a hot tub with a

scuba mask and a snorkel. It’s like a volcano ready to erupt — all over your exam. All you can do is to pray that your stomach is a brave little soldier, and will somehow last all 50 minutes.

The most dangerous part of being mangled during a midterm is the effect that alcohol has on your self-esteem. You now have to be smarter than everybody in the room, including your prof. Trick questions have no tricks anymore, because the normal balance of brain chemistry is upset. Instead of spending time on more complicated exam questions, you just stare at the random words, trying to remember their meaning.

With your stomach rumbling like a ticking clock, you still have to hammer out the essay, give new meaning to the shortness of the short answer segment, and put “T” beside every true or false question just to get out of the room. At this juncture, I’d like to stress that this is *not* a personal account, despite the fact that I seem to be incredibly aware of the personal details surrounding it. You still believe me, right? Good.

The point is — this is not acceptable planning. Luckily, all you need to memorize is another “Don’t drink and ...” rule. Unless you want to let all of the effort you made pulling the all-nighters and having multiple breakdowns go to waste with one drunken night, do not drink and write exams.

Giving the prez a peace-and-desist



TIM SCHNEIDER

Distinctly, I remember back in elementary school when report card time came around, that along with the more common grades for each class, there were also markings for general behaviour. Did I have a positive attitude? Did I play well with others? And although I never did as well as I'd have liked in math class, I always took pride in getting high marks for the amount of effort I put in, as in those days, effort was an easily quantifiable factor based on how often you raised your hand. As I moved through the post-elementary period, and everything became purely results-oriented, I became simply labelled as terrible at math — my effort no longer mattered.

Why is this relevant? Well, last Friday morning, U.S. President Barack Obama was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. I became aware of this immediately, as my peers started expressing their disbelief and disgust of the result on Facebook and Twitter. Some called it a sham and others asked what the president could have possibly done to earn such an honour. Some went so far as to say that they thought less of Barack Obama because he had been awarded the prize. Even considering all the media frenzy surrounding the near-canonization of Obama in recent months, this is preposterous.

What many fail to realize (or would

rather ignore), is that the Nobel Peace Prize, much like my elementary school math mark, is awarded almost solely to bring attention to *effort*, of which I hope many would agree Barack Obama has put forward in the pursuit of peace. While some argue that he achieved barely anything before the nominations deadline (as he had only been president for about 10 days), the symbol of peace the Obama campaign itself represented persisted long before his inauguration, and perhaps people too soon forgot the t-shirts and posters and slogans that were overpoweringly widespread only a year ago. It's this ability to bring people together, to raise awareness, and to promote peace that should be celebrated in hearing news of Obama's victory.

It's easier for us to denounce the achievements of those who try than it is to simply achieve ourselves.

For that matter, it's our own failings as a culture that are highlighted by this outcry, not those of President Obama. It has been so childish to frown upon the awarding of the peace prize to Obama that perhaps we all need to return to elementary school to learn the basic lessons of what it means to encourage effort in achievement. And it's the disgusting habit of our society that we are so goal-oriented that we hold little regard for the failed efforts of those who strive for a better world, and

this mentality that encourages those who want to achieve great things to not bother for fear that they might fail and be ridiculed.

As Obama has reached a celebrity status, he's been grouped into the same media monster as other celebrities that we seem to love to watch fail or succeed as our culture deems, not on their own merits. For this, he's subject to the unreasonable and uninformed scrutiny that only our majority populace is capable of providing, most of whom would be unable to name even a single other nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Place the greatest men and women into our pop culture spotlight and all that becomes visible are their blemishes. It's the ugly nature of reality that we as a society would rather criticize from the sidelines than get involved ourselves and that we would rather parrot popular opinion than investigate to reach conclusions of our own. It's easier for us to denounce the achievements of those who try than it is to achieve ourselves.

While it's true that Obama has yet to accomplish all of the things that he set out to do, much of this is a result of the system slowing down his progress through congressional action, due to the efforts of some of the same critics who oppose his receipt of the Peace Prize. While Obama still has a lot to prove to the world, we should accept that there is merit in his selection and be prepared to hold him accountable on his merits and efforts in peace. This prize is a promise ring, and Obama's call to action that he has a lot to live up to.

THE MARBLE PEDESTAL

It was Monday afternoon and I was counting down the seconds until my favourite part of the day. No, the week. Heck, the most enthralling and exhilarating weekly endeavour of my university experience: my organic chem lab. You see, this three-hour torture period makes me certain that the Chemistry department schemes up these labs every year while cackling over cruel ways for getting back at messy and inconsiderate students. Who, goodness knows, are only taking organic chemistry to get their medicine pre-reqs done before they sell their old

labs and burn their model kits in a ritual that started as a flicker, meant to be a flame, and eventually erupted in a blaze of polystyrene glory.

So when I pulled open the first of the shared drawers to find a paper towel folded up over the beakers, I naturally assumed the student before me was one of these aforementioned slobbs worthy of one of the aforementioned blazing infernos. But as I unfolded the towel, I found written across it: "Please keep these drawers clean—it makes it easier for all of us! Thanks, Morgan. Friday P.M." This 'Morgan' character had cleaned out the entire set of drawers, from every Pasteur pipette to every spilled gram of recrystallized 3-sulfolene.

In addition to the neat compartmentalization of the drawers that caught my eye, I also noticed someone else's bubbly handwriting on the

paper towel: "Thanks for cleaning it so well! Lisa." At this, I felt a classic, pay-it-forward smile creep onto my face and left my own nice comment on the paper towel, making sure I left the lab bench extra-clean that day. Next week, I'm counting on going back to a thoroughly commented paper towel, and as such, I deem you, Morgan, of being worthy of the Pedestal this week. To continue a tradition is one thing, but to start it is truly a wonderful idea.

MIM FATMI

The Marble Pedestal is a semi-irregular feature where a person or group who does something particularly noteworthy and awesome is elevated temporarily to a pedestal of prose, and praised. No actual enshrinements are performed.

LETTERS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

My sons' Atom team (8–10 yrs) was shown by the older guys the proper way to go through the drills and they had their opportunities at tackling, hitting, running the ball, etc. with the Bear players. Our players left the field grinning from ear to ear and had learned a heck of a lot by the time practice was through. The U of A players were incredibly friendly, encouraging, and all around good guys who really took an interest in the kids.

I can only hope that when my sons grow up and head off to the U of A that they can make as much of a positive impression on the younger kids as the Bears football team had on them. Thanks again!

SCOTT TYWONIUK
Via Internet

from THE web

Internet cares about buses too

RE: "U-Pass price approval gets increase" (August 6)

I see no reason why I should pay for other students to have a reduced transit fare, when I do not use public transit. Opt-out should be available just as it is for the health plan program, which is similar to the ETS pass in that it is also provided at reduced prices based on group participation. Because this increased cost is not what students agreed to initially, I would like to see a referendum to see if students would like to continue with the program.

MARION
Via Internet

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presents

2009 GSJS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Friday, 30 October, 2009 at 5pm in Room 3-06,
Students' Union Building**

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

Introductory remarks • Approval of 2008-2009 GSJS Audit
(Allen & Associates) • Announcements • Refreshments

All members (i.e., those with five or more Gateway contributions in the 365 days prior to 30 October and who have registered for membership with a Gateway editor) are asked to attend. If you have made five or more contributions to the Gateway in the 365 days prior to 30 October and would like to become a member, please contact the Editor-in-Chief at eic@gateway.ualberta.ca. This meeting is also open to the public.

**For more information, please contact Gateway Business Manager
Asia Szkudlarek at biz@gateway.ualberta.ca
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Latest magazine cover Marginalizes success



DAVID
JOHNSTON

What does it take to animate a scandal these days? The comic and cartoon world had just started to cope with the polygamous fallout of Archie Andrews marrying both Veronica and Betty, when another two-dimensional figure wrested the spotlight from his grip. That would be Marge Simpson, who's pulling the ultimate attention turn: getting naked. Let me break the story in the subtlest way I can: Marge is a *Playboy* cover girl. Cartoon boobies!

It's been hinted at for awhile; Hugh Hefner was saying as far back as August that November's issue would let "Marge Simpson [have] a surprise for her fans." But late last week, the cover was leaked over the Internet, and hordes of animation fetishists have been eagerly anticipating up the pixellated goodness of real, honest-to-goodness pictures of fake breasts. (No, no, not that kind of fake.)

I think my initial response to the debacle is that I'm not quite sure which party this demeans more. On one hand, *The Simpsons* is probably looking for all the attention it can get, now kicking off its 21st season, and a bit of headline-grabbing faux-nudity might just be what Dr. Hibbert ordered.

But the franchise has gone down this road before. Anyone remember the minor tizzy they whipped the viewing public into with *The Simpsons Movie*? That time they promised Bart would go full-frontal? He did, in fact, and it was ... well, uneventful. Turns out the cartoon penis of a 10-year-old boy isn't especially titillating for anyone (except the aforementioned animation fetishists, who must be having a field day at this point.) Sure, the context is different, but Matt Groening and company have already climbed this tree, and it turns out the nuts aren't that



WHAT'S ON THE BOOB TUBE? Extra! Extra!
Crazed mom goes topless! (Photos page 3-28)

big, so I don't know why they're expecting the tree to produce melons. Um, assuming that they can create a botanical hybrid that does that sort of thing.

What about the other end of the spectrum? *Playboy* itself obviously has no trouble displaying the female form. The fact that they're breaking tradition for the first time by showcasing a cartoon woman suggests, obviously, that they're running out of real gals willing to take their clothes off and they're hoping this will be as big a media draw for them as for Groening and Co. — that there'll be girls across the nation that will eat this up, thinking that they now have a shot to be in the prestigious magazine that featured Marge Simpson's nipples. Or, more likely, money changed hands, but both parties have seen a decline in viewership in recent years, and the publicity buzz will probably be ultimately beneficial to everyone involved.

Of course, the fact that Marge is on the cover really doesn't promise anything inside; it could likely just

be more of the usual *Simpsons* modus operandi for dealing with nudity — conceal it with innocuously placed objects, weird body postures, or tricky camera angles. Essentially, what they've done for the past two decades on Fox. In that case, the whole feature would be a particular waste of time — really, the only way they can live this down is to go the distance and show off hand-drawn breasts. Which I'm sure would be ... um, lovely? I guess? I'm gonna need a better reason to get excited, but I suppose she could have a third nipple or something.

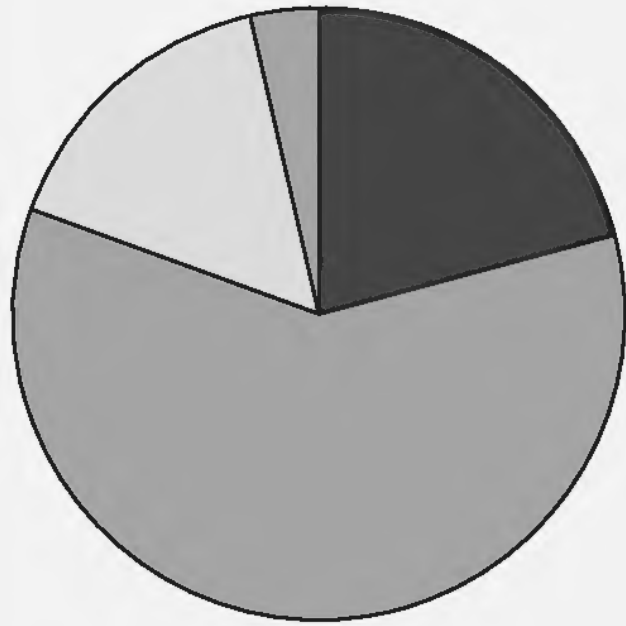
In an equally amusing development, the magazine has feigned surprise, claiming that Marge is "a stunning example of the female form," as if it's a new and shining discovery. Which is kinda funny, as the joke of the series has always been that Marge is pretty darn smokin'. Anytime on the show that she's gotten out of her sack dress to wear a gown or lingerie, she's been immediately treated as a sex object by every male character within two hundred yards. Considering how many plotlines and jokes on the show have hinged on that crucial distinction, it doesn't seem particularly surprising.

So the whole thing's a joke, right? Satire! Yeah, that doesn't quite fly. You can argue that they're mocking the established taboos and norms of society until the cows come home, but the main attraction is still the promise of cartoon nudity. It's ultimately a peep show. Does there have to be anything wrong with that? Of course not — but when the editorial director is describing the cover as "very, very racy," then he has to be selling the spread on a certain level as a "sex sells" angle, and that has to be admitted.

No, in the end, I guess the publicity stunt of cartoon boobies isn't going to be particularly demeaning to either party; after all, if they're willing to go to this level of chicanery in the first place, then they both essentially have to swallow a certain amount of pride. The whole thing may be tongue-in-cheek, but in doing so, they lower expectations as to how far down media conglomerates will step to grab people's attention. At least, until the spotlight is turned onto Jane Jetson's robot-lesbian relationship with Rosie. (Photos forthcoming in *Popular Mechanics*.)

readerpoll

"Have you filed a claim for the SU's Health Plan yet?"



- Yes (4%)
- No (16%)
- I opted out (60%)
- I was kinda hoping they'd just send me envelopes of cash (20%)

TOTAL RESPONSES: 57

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:
"To solve their \$59-million deficit, what should the University administration cut?"

vote online at
thegatewayonline.ca



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DRAWING ON DEADLINE

WRITTEN BY JEFF MARTIN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN MCKECHNIE

ON A DREARY SATURDAY MORNING, A RESPECTABLE GATHERING OF CARTOONISTS CAME TOGETHER AT HAPPY HARBOR COMICS TO UNDERTAKE ONE OF THE MOST FORMIDABLE OF CHALLENGES FOR COMIC ARTISTS: CREATING A 24-PAGE COMIC IN 24 HOURS.

The 24 Hour Comic challenge, created in 1990 by cartoonist and leading comics theoretician Scott McCloud, exploded into an annual event with the introduction of 24 Hour Comics Day in April 2004. Happy Harbor Comics owner Jay Bardyla and gang have been involved in the event since its inception five years ago, when their sister store in Vancouver first hosted the event. Since the inaugural 24 Hour Comics Day at his Jasper Avenue location in Edmonton, Bardyla has averaged nearly 30 participants per year. His desire to initially host the event was twofold — he viewed it as a “tool to bring the local creators together, and as a tool to have their talents support the community.”

Bardyla decided early on to tie the event in with his charity efforts. In the five years since the event started in Edmonton, Happy Harbor and all participating artists have been raising money for Literacy Alberta.

“While it’s great to do something for personal gratification, it seemed a waste not to capitalize on such a cool event that we could easily draw attention to and, in turn, help support an organization important to the people participating,” Bardyla explained.

Participants in the event are encouraged to collect sponsorship donations, similar to those collected by runners for charity marathons. Happy Harbor then donates 10 cents for each dollar raised by the participants. This year’s donation total — over \$3,100, with donations still trickling in — surpassed the goal of \$3,000 set in response to last year’s \$2,700 total. Since the first event was held in Edmonton in 2005, Bardyla has raised “approximately \$11,600” for Literacy Alberta.

This year’s rendition of the event saw 25 artists sit down to face the insanity of attempting to create 24 comic pages in a single day. To illustrate the Herculean difficulty of the task, one need only consider the average professional comic artist. The typical creator working on a monthly book is expected to be able to draw one page in an eight-hour workday, with a total output of 22 pages by month’s end. The key to finishing without shattering your brain, according to Bardyla, is “just [to] create an enjoyable story” instead of trying to create a masterpiece of comic art on the level of *Watchmen* or *All Star Superman*.

Considering the public venue, the artists have a lot of distractions to contend with as they work feverishly to accomplish their task. As the insanity that accompanies sleep deprivation invariably sets in, the distractions turn into bizarre games. One of Bardyla’s favourites, “Who’s A-Comin’ Up The Stairs?” is a recurring tradition which takes place in the early morning hours.

“When the door chime goes between midnight and 5 a.m., the creators guess how many people, and their gender, are coming up from the street into our second-story store,” Bardyla noted.

At the stroke of midnight, the cartoonists have been working for 14 hours straight, much to the shock of some of the unwitting patrons approaching their workspace. “Competition can get intense,” Bardyla mused, “and when participants guess right or wrong, the shouts of elation or defeat have startled many a late-night visitor.”



24 HOUR COMIC DAY SANITY ADVISORY



Attempting to create a 24-page comic in 24 hours is a harrowing task, with an overflow of self-doubt, panicked pencilling, exasperated inking, and the onset of sleep madness. My own effort was an abject failure, hampered by a rather nasty cold. I couldn’t even drag my disease-ridden corpse into the Harbor to participate (which was probably best for everyone there, given the mucus levels involved). From the relative comfort of my drawing desk, I managed to complete only a single page in about an hour and a half. Even this short experience taught me some valuable lessons to take forward into next year’s 24 Hour Comics Day, as well as the more

manageable 12 Hour Comic Challenge in March.

The first lesson is the one that Bardyla tries to impart to all of the participating cartoonists: you aren’t going to be able to create an artistic masterpiece, so just try to do something that will be fun to read. I started drawing what I assumed would be a simple page — it still took me an hour and a half, even though it was almost entirely composed of a clock, an arm reaching out and hitting the snooze button, and black space. Clearly, even if very little happens in them, seven panels still take a while to pencil and ink. It also made the page more difficult to lay out, which takes up more

time than one might think.

The second lesson I learned is that I’m very easily distracted, which is incredibly detrimental in a challenge that hinges on time management. Even without sitting in a room with 24 other artists — many of whom can get quite chatty — and hordes of store patrons and supporters, I found that every 15–20 minutes I was taking a break to watch television, check my email, or just contemplate pages of my script that I was nowhere near starting to work on. This is something I’m going to need to factor in to future 24 Hour Comics Day plans — especially since rousing games of “Who’s A-Comin’ Up The Stairs?”

aren’t the kind of thing you can just ignore.

The final lesson that I learned is that planning too much is as bad, if not worse, than planning too little. I’d written out a script for all 24 pages so that I could keep the plot moving, but that only ended up boxing me in, and creating premature panic after I was behind schedule after only one page. Knowing what was coming, and roughly how complicated it was going to be, quickly started me on the path to freak-out-ville.

Having dealt with deadlines in the past, I know that freak-outs over getting behind schedule lead to drawing faster. Unfortunately, drawing

faster leads to screwing up. A lot. Which just eats up more time. On the other hand, not knowing at all where the story is going to go can lead to disaster if you run into the dreaded writer’s block at 3 a.m. Coming up with a rough outline beforehand is definitely the way to go. Have an idea of where you want each page to go, but leave flexibility in case you get behind or something turns out to be too complex to get done in time.

Of course, come next year I’m sure I’ll have convinced myself that I can create something brilliant, make it too complicated, and panic all over again.

But there’s always next year.

social intercourse

Sarah Cole CD Release Party

With Jessica Heine
Friday, October 16, doors at 7:30 p.m.
The Haven Social Club
(15120A Stony Plain Road)
\$15 at the door

2010 has been a good year for the prophetic Sarah Cole — or, at least, she thinks it'll be better enough to be waiting for it. But she's going to have to work hard to top it, considering this U of A alumna is just releasing her debut album, *Waiting for Next Year*. Recorded in Edmonton, Okotoks, and Kelowna, the release focuses on personal tales from Cole's life, ranging from discussing her grandfather's passing to her "crazy day with her credit card."

A Conversation with George W. Bush

Starring George W. Bush as George W. Bush
Tuesday, October 20 at 5 p.m.
Shaw Conference Centre (9/9/ Jasper Ave.)
\$105-168 at Ticketmaster

A U.S. President who is unique in that almost nobody has an opinion on him, the tenure of George W. Bush was remarkable only by how unremarkable and uneventful it was. When discussing presidents such as Bill Clinton or Ronald Reagan, most people get into heated arguments that tend to divide rather than unite people. But not Dubya. No, Dubya's presidency, much like Herbert Hoover or Abraham Lincoln, was a time of great stability and little change, one where in a hundred years, historians will look back and say, "his leadership and the choices he made definitely didn't change the course of history." Bush will now be coming to speak to an Edmonton audience and shall regale them on how a complete dearth of catastrophes and scandals helped shape his eight-year reign that has already been long forgotten and far removed from public scrutiny. Regardless, rumour has it that protests may be held, decrying both the lack of solutions he created and the lack of problems he faced during his time in the Oval Office.

The Matinée

Tuesday, October 20 at 9 p.m.
Brixx Bar & Grill (10030-102 St.)
\$8 at the door

The Matinée write songs that "paint pictures of empty bottles and broken hearts, and broken bottles and empty hearts," a testament to the depths of hopelessness, despair, and anger that comes with running out of Jones Soda. This Vancouver-based group channel their passion for untarnished glassware and untarnished organs into their down-home roots-rock. Reportedly, the band occasionally gives out \$50 at some of their shows for anyone dancing to their song "50 Bucks." I always knew that dance class I took teaching the intricacies of Spaghetti Legs and the Running Man would pay for itself someday.

ZombieWalk

Friday, October 16 at 7 p.m.
Gazebo Park (104 St. and 83 Ave.)

On the off chance you see a bunch of slow-moving and bloody figures plodding along this weekend in an unyielding quest for a brain — any brain — that they can get their hands on, don't immediately grab your crowbar and call local authorities. These people are participating in a ZombieWalk, organized by the River City Zombie Collective and the organizers of the Edmonton festival in preparation of Halloween. Professional makeup artists will be at the event to jiggle people up as they prepare to lumber together in solidarity from Gazebo Park to the Legislature, rallying for the cause of the undead.

JOHN KMECH
Special Correspondent



Happy Harbor remembers Gilbert Bouchard

gallery preview

Gilbert Bouchard Memorial Art Show: Visions of Comics

October 17-30
Happy Harbor Comics Volume 1
(10112-124 St.)
Free

IAN PHILLIPCHUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

With protagonists that can leap tall buildings in a single bound, tear up city streets with brute force, or hit a fly on the wing with thrown projectiles, it's very easy to see the appeal of comic books. Until more recently, that appeal was concentrated in a small group of freaks and geeks, but a long list of big-budget Hollywood movies has revived the superhero genre in a big way. In Alberta, there is a groundswell of support forming a vibrant indie comic scene.

Happy Harbor Comics, the 2007 Outstanding Canadian Retailer of the Year has seen this popularity and is doing its part to boost the medium to places its never truly seen at a local level. This year, they're hosting the Gilbert Bouchard Memorial Art Show: Visions of Comics.

The show is dedicated to the memory of Gilbert Bouchard, a former *Edmonton Journal* and CBC freelance writer and proponent of the comics industry. Gilbert died earlier this year after suffering through depression. He was the subject of several different dedications, including having an Edmonton Fringe venue named after him, and a memorial placed in the official program. Said Happy Harbor owner Jay Bardyla in a May 16 *Edmonton Journal* article about Bouchard:

"We would host lectures and invite him to speak because he was just so incredibly well-versed and deep in knowledge and he just loved comics so much. He understood how great

they were and loved every ounce of them. We lost someone who had a significant voice in the world to champion our little cause."

Growing up just south of Peace River, Bouchard attended the University of Alberta, even writing and editing for the *Gateway*. Gilbert lived for the majority of his life in Edmonton, and wrote culture pieces on a multitude of art forms for various news and media outlets. As a fan of comics and a regular of Happy Harbor before his passing, it seems especially fitting that the art show that bears his name is focused on comics.

"We would host lectures and invite [Gilbert Bouchard] to speak because he was just so incredibly well-versed and deep in knowledge and he just loved comics so much."

JAY BARDYLA
OWNER OF HAPPY HARBOR COMICS

The show is also an exploration of the medium through the iconic creators and visionaries of the genre, and has contributions by artists including Scott Kowalchuk and Brent Smith of Thunderfist Productions.

"I've met a lot of people in the comic book industry in the past one to two years in Calgary [...] and getting to know the comic book community and culture within Alberta, you realize pretty quickly that there are a lot of people in Western Canada, that are [making comics]. I know there will be a couple of people in the show who have published work, and that was a really gratifying moment. 'Hey, if these cats, who have very similar education to me, can make a living at it, there is no reason I can't,'" Kowalchuk says.

"Originally, our cartoon started as a comic book, so I included a picture of that; it was kind of nice for myself to get back to the root of the story. I was heavily influenced by comics so I put a piece in for that, and we actually have a splash page from *The Last Outlaw* comic book I included as well," Kowalchuk adds.

One of Kowalchuk's pieces, which can be found on the event poster, is an introspective look into *Spider-Man* creator Steve Ditko's artistic centre.

"I had just recently read a book on Steve Ditko, and how he became, to some degree, this self-destructive creator. For me, I found that really striking because his contribution of *Spider-Man* alone to comic book mythos is pretty epic. And then to read how he got on board with a philosophy and never strayed from it; he's kind of destroyed, to some degree, the name of Steve Ditko and the future work of [himself] by restricting himself based on his philosophy," Kowalchuk says.

"That was the over-riding factor of the piece, that's on the poster [...] where he's standing there with kind of a shrugged look, 'Who am I? What am I doing?' while the name Steve Ditko is crumbling around him."

Being among the first of its kind in Alberta, the show will depend heavily on support from the community. With a wide variety of artists and pieces on display, it's sure to please everyone from the most dedicated comic book enthusiast to the indie comic aficionado. Even Kowalchuk seems to be drinking the Super Soldier Serum on this one.

"As far as I know, it's going to be a pretty sexy event. Any sort of comic book art show is going to be inherently sexy. It's really the only show of its kind that I've heard of in Alberta. I know even in Calgary, we've never had a solely comic book show. I know a lot of the artists are going to be there, I'm going to plan to be there for the opening as well, so it should be pretty rocking fun. If there is anyone who can cut loose and have fun, it's comic book guys."

Beat goes on for Deftones, despite bassist's coma

Drummer Abe Cunningham explains how a bandmate's serious car accident changed his perspective

musicpreview

The Deftones

With Slipknot

Sunday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m.
Shaw Conference Centre (9797 Jasper Ave.)
\$57.50 at ticketmaster.ca

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Rock and roll fans have long lived by the mantra, "live fast, die young." But what happens when your band has been around for 21 years? Abe Cunningham, drummer for the Deftones, has some hard-earned wisdom to share with his fans.

"You're not invincible. That's another lesson in life. You're only here for so long, you never know when [you might go], so you might as well enjoy it while you are here and enjoy who you're doing it with."

After a car accident put the Deftones' bassist Chi Cheng in a coma a year ago, the band was understandably shaken up. They put aside their finished album *Eros* out of respect for their friend and took a break as a band. After much discussion, they decided that the best way to honour him and keep themselves from going crazy, was to continue as the Deftones. They found a temporary replacement for Cheng in former Quicksand bassist Sergio Vega, who had helped the band out 10 years earlier when Cheng had to undergo an emergency foot surgery while the band was on tour.

"He flew out from New York and didn't know we only had one person on the list and that was him. He came all stressed out, thinking he had a tryout," Cunningham remembers.

The Deftones have now recorded a new album, which is tentatively set for release early in the new year.

"We just decided to not quit making music



and we wrote an entire new record in a couple of months. I think a lot of people were slightly confused by that, they think that we re-recorded *Eros*, but we just set that aside and recorded a new record [...] The way that it was recorded sonically, we're so excited about the way it came out."

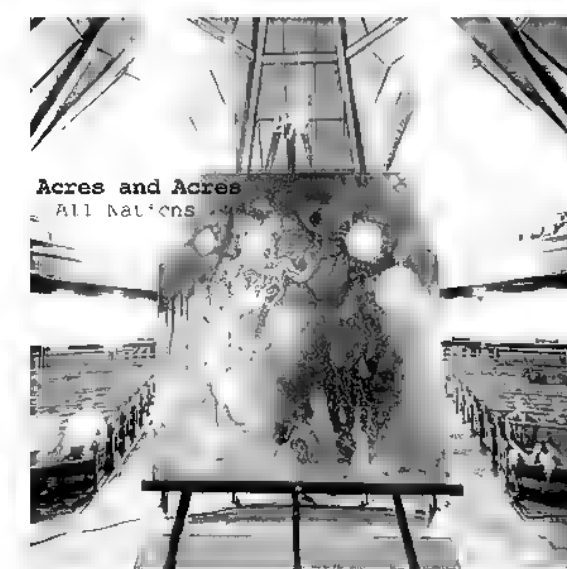
While the band normally releases an album every few years, the accident caused a lot of changes for the band. They are currently sitting on two complete albums, but Cunningham insists that *Eros* will not be released until Cheng is well enough to be a part of it.

After hitting numerous festival dates in Europe over the summer, the band embarks on a short tour supporting fellow metalheads Slipknot, before finally joining Cypress Hill's genre-blending Smoke Out festival.

"We've had the opportunity to play the seediest little clubs and play in front of thousands of people [...] I love that we are able to do what we do after this long. It feels like we are focusing in and having some of the best times ever now. I love it all, man," Cunningham says.

"The [car accident] has really brought [the idea of mortality] into perspective; this is a really special thing. We've gone through all of these ups and downs and we are doing our best, doing it in Chi's name.

"We have grown up a lot these last few years. It's all a part of the process. The longer you are on Earth, you figure some things out. I'm not saying that we have it all figured out, but we certainly are enjoying the whole thing and treating ourselves better than we ever have."



albumreview

Acres and Acres

All Nations

Unsigned

CARSON FONG

Arts & Entertainment Writer

The debut album *All Nations* from Halifax's Acres and Acres is highly representative of Canadian folk music. In fact, it's inspired by Neil Young's *Harvest* album, so the result is what you'd expect: easy acoustic picking, soft vocals, and minimalist drums. To be frank, the sound is a bit generic, but the album remains enjoyable and calming in its approach.

The greatest strength of the music is how it creates a rural atmosphere through tone. Pacing is done well, the tempo never greater than an easy foot tap. The tracks are simple and straightforward. Also on the checklist are shots at materialism ("They can't be making money because they've all got crappy printers"). There's notable variety in the tracks, but not by a large margin. One of the more emotional tracks, "All He Needs" attempts to build up a strong love desire, but it feels like it comes up just short, and instead is more reflective of a broken, cold winter night.

The well-spun lyrics often save the songs from being boring ("Don't come knocking on my back door / because I know what back doors are for / and you are not a friend"). However, there isn't quite enough punch to separate this band from the field. The music is agreeable, and those who enjoy the genre will find *All Nations* to be pleasant. Others won't though, as Acres and Acres' debut is too safe and standard to appeal to non-listeners of folk.

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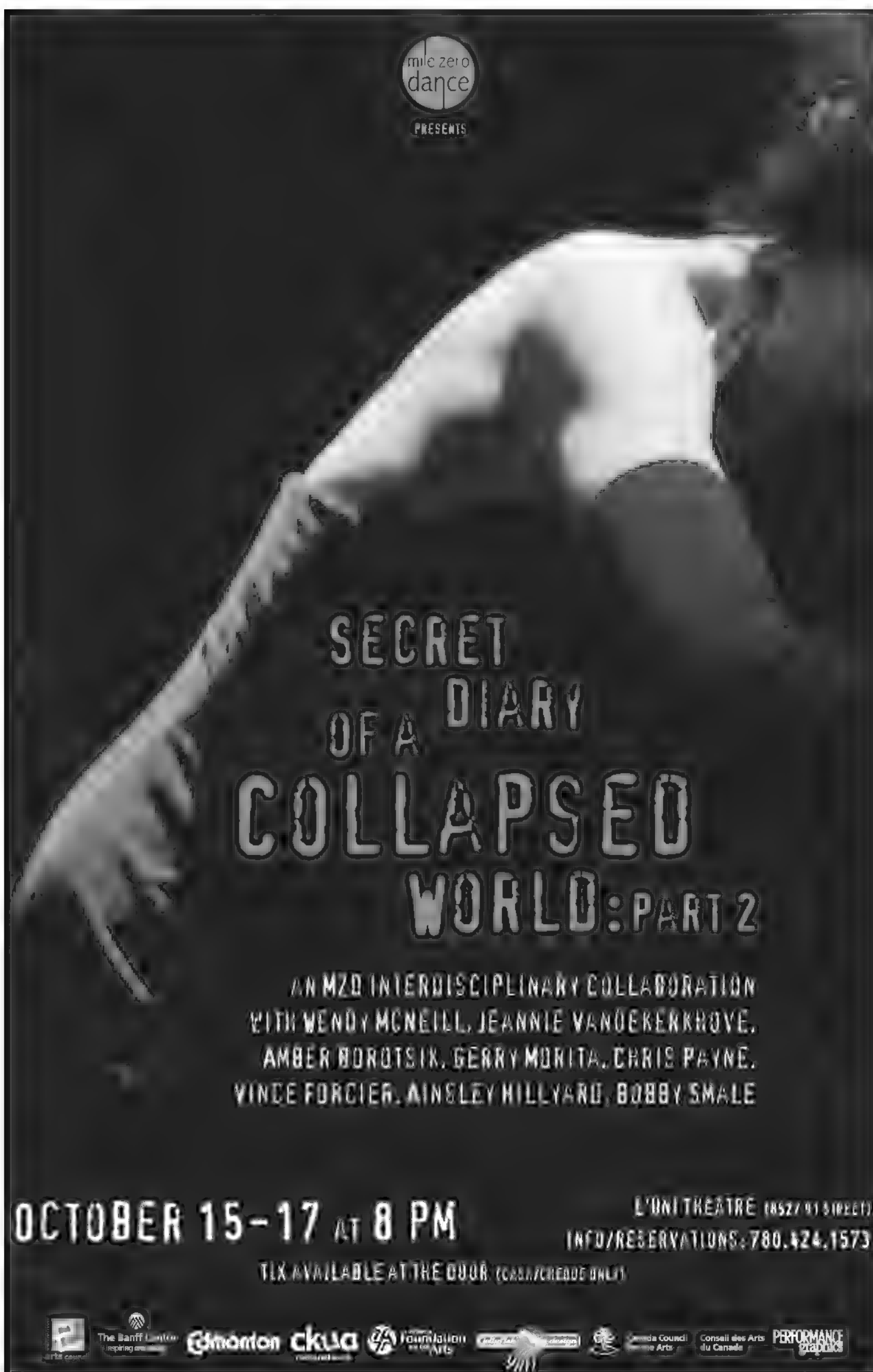
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Collaboration launches Castlemusic

musicpreview

Castlemusic

With Chad VanGalen
Sunday, October 18 at 7 p.m.
Myer Horowitz Theatre (SUB)
\$20 at ticketmaster.ca

ELLIOT GOODINE
Arts & Entertainment Staff

"I didn't realize that I wanted to play music so much until I bought a guitar when I was around 18. I bought it on a whim. I was in a shop with a friend and I saw it and I thought, 'I'm going to buy that,'" says Jennifer Castle about her beginnings as a musician.

This sole member of Castlemusic grew up in Toronto, where she always sang along to the radio, getting her parents to turn up her favorite songs, but her life as a performer began much later. After high school, she spent a year working in London, England, where she began performing.

After her return to her lifelong hometown, Castle integrated herself into the Toronto music scene. There, her voice caught the ear of Will Kidman, keyboardist for the Constantines.

"I recorded on Will Kidman's solo record, *Woolly Leaves*," she explains. "That was really natural, it was like, 'Of course I'm going to go record with the Constantines.'"

Kensington Heights, the album that followed that collaboration, was a critical smash, and Castle's vocals appeared on a handful of tracks. Castle then hit the road with the Constantines.

Her first show with Chad VanGalen, her current tour mate, was of the less traditional variety.

"I can't remember when this house show was, but it was sometime this year. And it was awesome," she says of a party thrown by one of VanGalen's bandmates. "I love to play house shows. When I think about them, they're actually really creative spaces and I often like performing because I won't have a microphone, or I'm just trying something casually."

This relaxed house party vibe is



something that Castle hopes to bring to her current theatre tour with VanGalen.

"The approach in theatres — it might be conducive to the same sort of feeling. Just being really able to be yourself. Sometimes you have to have a little bit of an armour when you go out into a rock club," she explains.

Castlemusic's debut album, *You Can't Take Anyone*, is a quiet affair, built almost solely around the character of Castle's delicate vocals, accompanied with understated guitar.

"Less is more was always my approach in terms of aesthetics," says Castle about her recording strategy.

Castle's focus has always been solely on songwriting rather than self-promotion; after releasing her first live CD, she didn't

realize that she had forgotten to title her songs until someone had asked her for track names.

For the first while, she just named songs for their first line, a practice she sometimes regrets, saying the first track of her album, "One, Two, Three," should have been called "A Song is Just a Song," to avoid comparisons with fellow Canadian songstress Leslie Feist.

When Castle looks to others for inspiration for the life in music ahead of her, she says, "I feel like I've been just singing and playing music and success hasn't come into the equation too much, so I don't know how to identify with [successful artists]. But, I do identify with people that just don't have a choice but to express themselves in some way."



albumreview

Uncle Kracker

Happy Hour
Atlantic Recording Corp.

JANNA YING DENG
Arts & Entertainment Writer

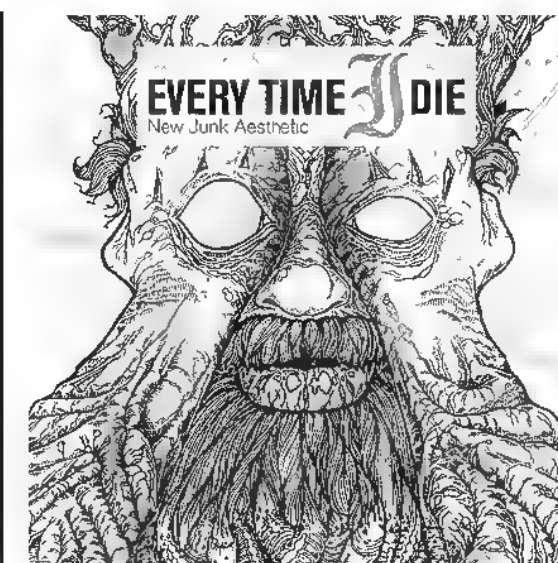
It's been five years since Uncle Kracker has released an album. But is that enough time for him to grow as an artist? So far, his name has been attached to a few catchy tunes, but not enough to give him lasting fame.

We probably remember hits "Follow Me" and "Drift Away," but not Uncle Kracker himself — no doubt due to his propensity to completely emulate the style of his latest musical idol. Why listen to Uncle Kracker sing Kenny Chesney or Kid Rock, when you could hear the original artist? But now, he's initiating his own style for the first time.

Luckily, this album featured more Kid Rock influence than Kenny Chesney. Unlike *Seventy Two and Sunny*, with its country-folk edge, *Happy Hour* has an easy pop-rock feel. The occasional regression into country twang ("Hey Hey Hey") is forgivable.

Rock ballads, pop, upbeat soft rock, and mellow country blend together with quirky punk hits to create a sundry pallet. Listeners will find themselves humming at least one catchy tune under their breath, even if they hated half the others.

Indeed this collection gives the earliest sign of Kracker developing into an original artist. For audiences that have tried Uncle Kracker, but found his efforts too rehearsed and unoriginal, try again. Among the jumble of songs lies the potential for a talented musician to manifest.



albumreview

Every Time I Die

New Junk Aesthetic
Epitaph Records

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Seconds into Every Time I Die's latest album, I found myself cowering, screaming in agony as I underwent a post-traumatic-stress-induced flashback to this year's Warped Tour. The neon album cover and the screeching, indecipherable howl amidst piles of feedback brought blood to my ears. I feared their move to punk label Epitaph was a blatant effort to sell albums to the legions of makeup and skinny-jean-wearing tweens who comprise the modern Warped crowd. Just as I was about to throw my laptop through the window while screaming curses that the devil does indeed wear Prada, the second song began.

Coming to my senses, I realized that the Southern metal band that I've long loved have retained their infamous sense of humour. Despite the cringe-inducing joke of a leadoff song, their latest album reinforces why they're quickly becoming one of the leading bands in their genre. Their song lyrics deftly combine wit and social commentary in a poetic way that makes the average metal band appear almost juvenile and borderline illiterate.

The move to a new label appears to have focused the band, as they pull off their heaviest, yet most technical album yet. "The Sweet Life" borrows from a piece of '80s fluff, twisting the rallying call "Ain't nothing gonna break my stride / ain't nothing gonna slow me down," into a sing-along that cowboy boot-wearing Lemmy fans will love. Fire up your jacked up pick-up and crank "Wanderlust" on the way to the next bush party.

Blackbird explores the darker side of youthful sexuality

theatrereview

Blackbird

Directed by Wayne Paquette
Written by David Harrower
Starring James MacDonald and Tracey Power
Citadel Rice Theatre (9828-101A Ave.)
Runs October 3-25 at 7:30 p.m.
October 24 at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.
October 25 at 1:30 p.m.
\$35-65 at citadeltheatre.com

CAITLIN GORUK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Blackbird seems like the classic tale of girl meets boy — they flirt, they fall in love, and have sex. The only difference is that this happens when he's 40 and she's only 12.

It's a tragically beautiful play that tears apart the laws of social convention and delves into the twisted levels of love. The Citadel Theatre rarely fails to deliver a show abundant with talent that leaves the audience in awe, and *Blackbird* undoubtedly held true to those standards.

The opening scene gives no notion of what the audience is about to experience. It's clear that Una (Tracey Power) and Ray (James MacDonald) have a strong relationship, but the ambiguity of what that might be is apparent throughout the piece. It gives it an air of mystery and intrigue that captures the audience within the first few lines.

The set, designed by David Fraser, encompasses the feelings of abandonment, disorder, and neglect with garbage strewn everywhere. It's interesting how the lovers meet in such a public place as an office lunchroom to talk about matters that are so private.



The language of the play is very sporadic; a fair amount of the speech is fragmented and overlapped, revealing the intricacies and necessity of each detail. This temperament of the lines help to maintain the intensity and suspense because Una and Ray's history is unraveled slowly, piece by piece. We're not even made aware of their disturbing relationship until about 15 minutes into the play. Crucial details of their unsettling past are revealed in strategic increments, allowing the audience to be completely blindsided by each one.

Keeping an audience intrigued when there are only two actors on stage can

be difficult, but this is no issue when you have two extraordinary performers such as Power and MacDonald at your disposal. The sheer intensity and rapport they portray is phenomenal. The tension seeps from their bodies and each line is spoken with beautiful intent.

Only MacDonald could make an audience sympathize with a man who had a sexual relationship with a 12-year-old. His flustered nature and deeply routed adversity for who he was and what he did is entrancing.

Power's delivery of her monologue, in which she explains the torment she went through because of him, is touching and so beautifully performed. Una's

scale of emotions range immensely throughout the piece, jumping from one to the other in quick succession at times. She does a magnificent job tackling each emotion and keeping the audience's constant attention.

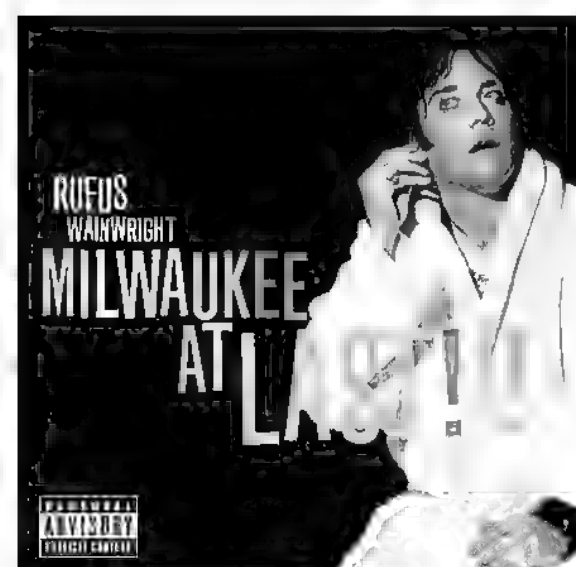
Even amongst all the heaviness of the play, the script allows for some humour to be intertwined. There are moments of playfulness between the two characters such as Una joking that she is, of course, planning to kill him by "[k]leenexing him] to death," and questioning him if he has a checklist "for those who are aroused by children."

There are times as if they are just old friends joyfully reminiscing instead of a

girl who tracked down a man she had sex with when she was 12.

The script toys with the idea of who the real victim is and how, as humans, we torture ourselves with wanting to know every agonizing detail when we don't understand why someone hurts us. It explores the extremely twisted nature and complete defiance of what is normal when a girl is drawn back to her abuser with some sick longing and need for him.

Blackbird is an enthralling piece of theatre that explored many forbidden aspects of life while taking the audience by surprise and leaving them with an unforgettable experience.



albumreview

Rufus Wainwright
Milwaukee At Last
Decca Records

ERIN FRASER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Some people say live music is a dying art, but Rufus Wainwright seems to have made it his goal to prove them wrong. *Milwaukee at Last*, a recently released two-disc recording from a 2007 live performance, is the artist's second live album. No matter how hard he tries, though, Wainwright can't overcome some of the common problems with live recordings.

Disc one of the set consists of

10 previously recorded tracks being played over distracting fanfare. It's also difficult to listen (with no inclination of the ongoing visual) to esoteric remarks from Wainwright, and unprovoked screams from the audience. This disc highlights so many things wrong with album recordings of live performances.

Disc two contains a relatively appealing video of the performance, and proves that

unlike the lyrics of "Release The Stars" would have you believe, "old Hollywood" is alive and well. He employs costumes, props, and diamond earrings the size of fists in an entertaining performance that is sure to encourage interest in attending more live music performances.

If you never get the chance to see Wainwright live, the DVD will provide you with an entertaining look at all that you're missing. But if you're looking for something truly entertaining to bounce off your ear drums, you're better off picking up his studio-recorded discs. *Milwaukee at Last* is an ineffective repeat of previously recorded great songs, and while the included DVD attempts to make it up, it falls short.



albumreview

Brendan Benson
My Old, Familiar Friend
ATO Records

BRUCE CINNAMON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"If she throws her heart away / I'll be there on garbage day / To sift through what's left I guess / To sort through the loneliness ... I don't mind if all the neighbours can see me," sings Brendan Benson on his new album's first single "Garbage Day."

Benson's fourth solo album, *My Old, Familiar Friend* is a delightful blend of old and new, love, anger, perfection, and confusion. Styles range

from alternative-punk, to disco-folk, to piano-heavy ballads, but throughout Benson couples clever lyrics with strong, fast beats.

Most songs on the album concern the sheer strangeness and unfair complexities of love and relationships (mostly of the imagined, broken, or unrequited varieties).

This album is therefore a perfect tribute to the paranoid, neurotic, and

desperately lonely people to whom that ideal of love has never been realized.

There's nothing spectacular or extravagant on this album, but this is only due to Benson's own understated style.

He's more content with a strong melody and witty lyrics than ostentatious technical feats. This works for him, making his songs clean and enjoyable, with none of the extraneous or overwhelming details.

In the end, it's unclear whether the old, familiar friend of the title is love or loneliness, but this ambiguity gives *My Old, Familiar Friend* a wry sense of humour.

In either case, Brendan Benson has delivered a solid, interesting album yet again.

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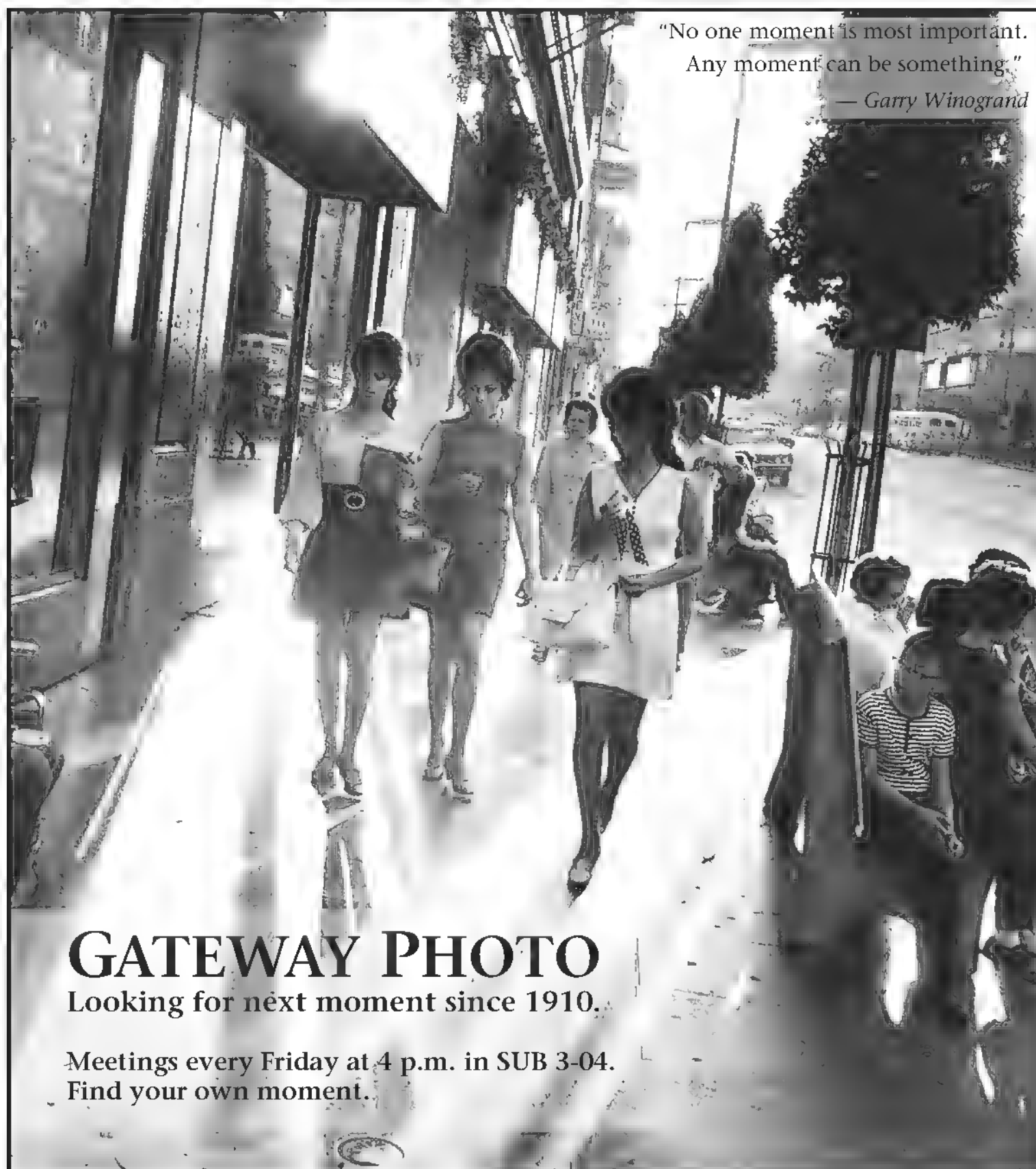
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"No one moment is most important. Any moment can be something."
— Garry Winogrand

GATEWAY PHOTO

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Fan donations fund Kelowna band's debut

musicpreview

We Are the City

Saturday, October 17 at 4 p.m.
Empress Ale House (9912-82 Ave.)
Free

SARAH STEAD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Kelowna's We Are the City are beginning their musical career where many bands start out: broke. Fresh out of high school, the trio of pianist Cayne McKenzie, guitarist David Menzel, and drummer Andy Huculiak decided that even after they had pooled all of their funds, there was still a long way to go financially before the band could even think about recording an album. Taking a cue from *A Streetcar Named Desire*, WATC decided to rely on the kindness of strangers. They set up an online donation page so that anyone could give to the band. In exchange for the \$3,500 they raised, the band repaid fans by creating custom YouTube thank-you videos and sending out signed copies of the finished album *In A Quiet World*.

"It was really cool making all those videos, and we just got to be creative with them, which was awesome [...] We don't really want to join a label or



take a \$20,000 loan out of the bank for an album. It's so much nicer to be debt free," Menzel says of the band's unique fundraising efforts.

WATC also got involved with The Peak 100.5 FM's "Peak Performance Project," in which a pool of 20 bands from B.C. are given the opportunity to meet, network with, and learn from professionals in the Canadian music industry. In addition, after being judged on their marketing plans and online presence by the pros, three of the 20 bands will walk away with a combined \$275,000

to invest in their budding music careers. Winners will be announced in March, but according to Menzel, the experience has already been worth it for his band.

"We spent a week just learning from industry professionals — everyone from Nickelback's manager to Dave Genn from 54-40. We went to this camp expecting 19 competitors [...] and what ended up happening was that we turned into such a family. There was this feeling of unity between all the bands. Anyone who walks away from that with the money, I'd be totally happy for them."



The Fugitives
Find Me
Killbeat Music

albumbattle

Throw Me The Statue
Creaturesque
Secretly Canadian

VS



KELSEY TANASIUK
Design & Production Editor

The plan: pick two albums and pit them against each other in a gruesome deathmatch until a victor emerges. There can be only one!

Album Title

Throw Me The Statue: Though not as amazingly awesome as the Indiana Jones reference in their band name, *Creaturesque* is a playful and intriguing album title.

The Fugitives: *Find Me* is a perfectly fitting title for an album that seems inspired by the Missed Connections section of Craigslist.

Advantage: It's a tough call, but *Throw Me The Statue* takes it.

Cover Art

TMTS: It's pretty simple: a photograph of a pool-side overgrown with plant life, taken through the bushes as if you were trekking through the jungle and simply stumbled upon a man-made pool. It's curious without being mysterious, and pleasant without being playful, as if it's falling just short of the mark of something really exciting.

TF: Designed in the style of a Penguin book cover from the '60s, the Fugitive's cover art gives an old-fashioned and well-loved feel before you even unwrap it from the packaging. The band pose the story of four wallflower partygoers looking forlorn and forgotten. The girl in the band, Barbara Adler, is playing Cat's Cradle in the photograph. A brilliant detail that evokes smiles and a sense of nostalgia.

Advantage: The Fugitives' classy cover trumps *Throw Me The Statue*. They may both be mysterious, but *The Fugitives* just do it better.

First Track

TMTS: "Waving At The Shore" starts off slow, but eventually blossoms into a delightfully cheery track with some lovely vocal stylings that go missing for a large portion of the rest of the album. It will make you wonder why they didn't continue on this train of musical thought.

TF: "Breaking Promises" is a beautiful start to an album that seems full of promise. The music builds and rolls through the track, changing tempo and volume in a manner that wraps up the listener and doesn't let go.

Advantage: "Breaking Promises" is simply the stronger opening track. *The Fugitives* win this round.

Best Track

TMTS: Nothing else on the album is quite as exciting as "Waving at the Shore," but "Noises" is a pretty good listen as well. They seem to carry over a bit of that delightful experimentation and playfulness here.

TF: The rollicking track called "Find Me" puts up a good fight, but in the end, the beautiful sound and heartfelt lyrics of "To The Man Found In His Apartment Seven Years After His Death" is clearly the best track on the album. The Fugitives tell the tale of the forgotten man and seem to ask his spirit "what happened?" It's a song to make your heart ache in a good way.

Advantage: *Throw Me The Statue's* tracks are nice but the award goes to *The Fugitives* for this moving performance.

Worst Track

TMTS: "Snowshoes" is a passable song until you get to the middle stretch. There, the electronic aspects cross the line from somewhat-music like to obnoxious noise. You may need to fast

forward, or at least cover your ears.

TF: "Music (live)," while an interesting bit of slam poetry, is not actually music, contrary to its name. There are no musical instruments, nor is there any singing of any nature. It's the sort of thing that's cool to listen to once but you wouldn't put on your iTunes.

Advantage: *Throw Me The Statue* wins this one, because while "Snowshoes" isn't a good song, at least it is a song.

Overall Attractiveness of the Band Members

TMTS: At first glance, *Throw Me The Statue* would take this one in a sweeping victory. However upon closer inspection, these gentlemen seem to be possessing the male version of The Cheerleader Effect — a phenomenon first discovered by the Bro of psychology, Barney Stinson from *How I Met Your Mother*. They look attractive as a group, but are rather odd-looking if inspected one by one.

TF: The band's goofy looks are honestly becoming — plus they have a shot of estrogen in the band. They're non-offensive at worst and have a sort of awkward adorableness working for them at best.

Advantage: *The Fugitives*. *Throw Me The Statue* should make note that just because your vocals sound girly, it doesn't mean you are one.

Verdict

Despite having only five tracks on their album, *The Fugitives'* decision to choose a quality EP over the quantity of a full CD does them a world of good. While *Throw Me The Statue's Creaturesque* pleasantly fades into the background, *The Fugitives Find Me* stands up and says, "Listen to me! I am talking to you!" You'll find you'll be more than happy to listen.

BEARS CAN-AM
SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

U of A Main Gym, 7 p.m.
Alberta vs. Lewis

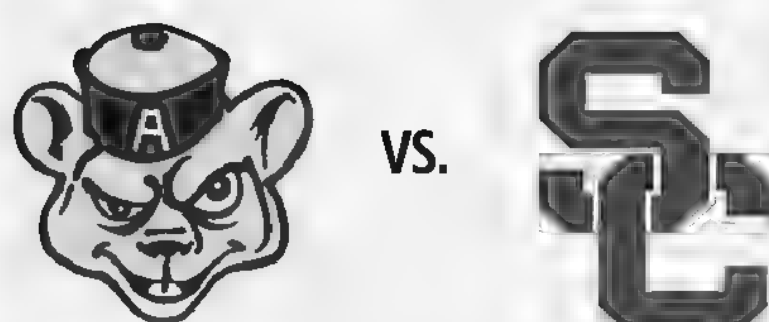
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

U of A Main Gym, 8 p.m.
Alberta vs. Pepperdine

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

U of A Main Gym, 12 p.m.
Alberta vs. Juniata

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

U of A Main Gym, 8 p.m.
Alberta vs. USC

Volleyball elite converge for Can-Am

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

It's that time of the year again, as the Bears volleyball squad welcomes some of the best varsity volleyball teams in North America to Edmonton for the annual Can-Am Challenge. The defending CIS national champions will host seven other volleyball teams from both the CIS and NCAA headlined by the 2009 NCAA Silver Medalists, the University of Southern California Trojans.

With three other Canada West schools along with four NCAA schools joining the Bears for the tournament, the action is sure to be some of the best volleyball of the season.

"You're talking about two of the premier programs in the U.S. in the form of USC and Pepperdine as far as men's volleyball goes, so you're not going to get any other chance to see those schools," Bears head coach Terry Danyluk said.

Joining Southern California and Pepperdine from the NCAA ranks will be Lewis University and Juniata College, giving fans a chance to watch a broad spectrum of teams from across the American varsity ranks.

"It's kind of unique the way this tournament is scheduled, it's Canada vs. U.S., so when you come to the gym there will never be two American teams or two Canadian teams playing — it will always be an international game," Danyluk explained.

With UBC, Brandon, and Thompson Rivers joining the Bears as CIS participants at this year's tournament, the Volley-Bears will get a good look at some of their Canada West counterparts before the regular season opens up next weekend — something that's always a plus for Danyluk and his coaching staff.

"The opportunity to see them at any time is always good for scouting."

The Bears are coming off one of the greatest seasons in school history after going undefeated in the regular season and playoffs, as they captured their second-straight national title. That remarkable season was sparked in large part by a strong showing at last year's Can-Am Challenge that saw the Bears go 3-1.

"This tournament's gotten very popular with a certain group of people. We get pretty good crowds — we're promoting the sport, but it's also a good test and we approach these matches without scouting our opponents a lot, so it really



FILE PHOTO/TYLER HEAL

DIG IN Volleyball fans will have a full menu of great volleyball this weekend at the annual Can-Am tourney.

tells us a lot about who we are. It's been a really good gauge in preparing us for our seasons in the last 10-15 years," Danyluk explained.

The tournament remains a highlight on the Bears' schedule, as this year's edition of the Can-Am will be the 14th. The annual event not only pits team against team, but also the CIS against the NCAA as teams from are looking for bragging rights. Last season the NCAA went 10-6 against the CIS in the tournament, giving the American contingent their first Can-Am win in over five years. The Bears and their CIS coun-

terparts will be looking to reclaim those bragging rights this time around.

"It's fun for the fans. I don't take the whole bragging rights thing too seriously myself," Danyluk explained. "It's a really good thing for the spectators to see and the international thing is always exciting."

The Bears get the tournament underway tonight at 7 p.m. in the Main Gym against Lewis University, with the tournament getting fully underway starting Friday with a seven-game slate with games going at both the Main Gym and Pavillion.

Herd stampede into Clare Drake for Canada West final rematch

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

Revenge comes in many forms, and for the Pandas hockey team, they hope it'll come this weekend in a pair of wins over the Manitoba Bisons as the two hook up for a rematch of last season's Canada West Final.

The last time Alberta and Manitoba met was last March when the Herd stormed into Edmonton and won the conference crown thanks to a dramatic third game, triple overtime win to secure the conference's lone berth to Nationals.

That fall to the Bisons has the Pandas raring to go this weekend as they look to, at least in small part, avenge last season's heartbreaking playoff loss.

"They've been focusing a lot over the summer to get better, get in better shape, and prepare mentally for taking those wins back from Manitoba," explained head coach Howie Draper.

"It's good that we get to see Manitoba here early in the season, because it will tell us a lot with respect to how we have to prepare in order to be successful against them in the second half and through the playoffs."

The Pandas will come into Friday and Saturday after opening their regular season schedule over Thanksgiving weekend with a pair of wins over the Regina Cougars. Fourth-year forward Leah

Copeland led the way for Alberta, notching a goal and four assists to help the young Pandas earn the pair of victories.

"We've talked about her having to step up and be a little bit more of a dominating player, or at least have a regular impact game-to-game," explained Draper. "I think that she certainly did that this past weekend."

For Manitoba, their rematch with the Pandas will be their first of the regular season. The Bisons, similar to the Pandas, have lost some veterans from last year's squad, but by all accounts have filled those holes.

"They lost some key players and players that we needed to key on in order to be successful, but from what I've heard some of the players that they have coming in are very skilled, very quick, and very hard-working."

Despite a 3-4 preseason mark, the Bisons have secured victories over two quality teams in the forms of Saskatchewan and North Dakota.

"In all honesty, I think they will be a little bit stronger than they were last year. They're losing some experience, but I think in place of that experience, they've got some high-energy skilled players coming in."

The Pandas and Bisons hit the ice both Friday and Saturday night at 7 p.m. at Clare Drake Arena.



LISA LIN

ROUND TWO The Puck Pandas will be looking to enact some revenge this weekend as they welcome the Manitoba Bisons to town for Alberta's second weekend of Canada West regular season action.

BEARS FOOTBALL



ALBERTA'S LEADERS

Rushing	Carries	Yards	TD
.OZZY, Tenday	84	415	3
Passing	Att-Cmp-Int	TD	
ARMSTRONG, Quade	63-116-6	3	
Receiving	No.	Yards	Long
ROGERS, La'ne	20	308	/1

	Canada West Standings				
	G	W	L	Pt.	
Calgary	6	5	1	10	
Saskatchewan	5	4	1	8	
Regina	5	3	2	6	
Alberta	5	2	3	4	
Manitoba	5	2	3	4	
Simon Fraser	6	2	4	4	
UBC	6	1	5	2	

Bears set to collide with Rams at Foote Field

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

After a bye week, the Bears football squad returns to the gridiron this weekend at home against the Regina Rams in a pivotal conference matchup. The Bears come into the weekend two points behind the third-place Rams in the tight Canada West standings, and will be looking to get back to the .500-mark.

Alberta last hit the field two weeks ago in Winnipeg against the Manitoba Bisons, suffering a 20-13 loss, and with that loss fell to 2-3 on the season. Alberta head coach Jerry Friesen and the team have had some time to regroup after the loss with the bye week.

"The bye week last week gave us a chance to recover. We went back to some fundamentals, we did some things in the community, so it was a good week for us and a good change of pace for us," Friesen explained.

That bye came at a pivotal point in the season as the Green and Gold head into their final three games of the season with their playoff hopes laying squarely in their hands. The Rams come into the weekend on a two-game winning streak, and sport the conference's best red-zone offence and defence, scoring 11 of 12 times inside the 20-yard line, while holding the opposition to 13 scores in 17 attempts.

The game will be the Bears first of what will be a very difficult final stretch of the regular season, that will see the Bears play the conference's top two teams after the matchup with Regina. With games looming against Saskatchewan and Calgary to finish up the season, a win against Regina is almost necessary for the Bears if they hope to make it into the postseason.

"Every game is important from now on and it's that way through out the league. Each game is key — the final positions are starting to work themselves out, so every game from now on is a key game for both teams," Friesen explained.

Alberta has been streaky thus far this season



FILE PHOTO/SAM BROOKS

HOME COOKING Alberta will be looking to bounce back after a loss two weeks ago against Manitoba.

showing they can beat the conference's best, but have struggled to show that consistency for a full 60 minutes. Both of the Bears' wins have come against teams that, at the time, were both ranked in the CIS top-10, which illustrates they can play with the elite in the Canada West — and they'll have to if they hope to make it to the postseason as all three of their final games will come against teams ahead of them in the standings.

"If we want to be competitive in this conference

we've got to be able to play with the teams that are ahead of us and that's the challenge that we've got," Friesen re-iterated.

"The three teams that we've got to finish off with are all above us and if we want to show what type of team we've got, no better opportunity than this."

The action gets underway Saturday afternoon at Foote Field with kickoff going at 1 p.m. The game can also be heard online at www.bears.ualberta.ca.

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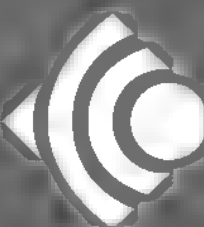
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Bears look to punch playoff ticket

EMERSON CSORBA
Sports Staff

At 5-1-2, the University of Alberta men's soccer team looks primed for a postseason berth.

Ranked fifth in the CIS polls, Len Vickery's Bears take on the Calgary Dinos and Lethbridge Pronghorns at Foote Field this weekend in a series where two wins will clinch a Canada West playoff spot for the Green and Gold.

While Vickery and the Bears have had both the Dinos' and Pronghorns' numbers with 1-0 wins over both earlier this season, the Bears will have to continue their strong play to punch their playoff ticket.

"Without a doubt [Calgary] will do everything they can to rattle us and get into the playoff race. They'll try to get the result on our home field, and we need to be ready for that."

LEN VICKERY
BEARS SOCCER HEAD COACH

"Calgary will be extremely tough, as was the case when we played them on their home field. The game was extremely well-contested, and we had to earn the win every step of the way. We only escaped by the narrowest of margins," Vickery said.

Calgary appears to pose the toughest



FILE PHOTO/LEANNE FONG

TWO STEP The Bears can secure a berth in the postseason with a pair of wins.

test for the Bears this weekend, as the Dinos come into the weekend within striking distance of Victoria for the fourth and final playoff spot.

"Without a doubt [Calgary] will do everything they can to rattle us and get into the playoff race. They'll try to get a result on our home field, and we need to be ready for that."

Expect Kevin Perry and Cameron Schmidt to once again factor heavily in the Bears success. Both have been clutch in big games for Alberta through their first eight games. Perry and Schmidt both have two game-winning goals, which lead all players in Canada West.

The two local products have led a consistent offence thus far in the 2009 campaign. Perry, who suited up with club team Southwest United prior to playing with the Bears, is an explosive striker with a knack for finishing. Schmidt, the second half of the tandem, played for the

Edmonton Drillers, where he excelled as a highly skilled finisher.

"Kevin and Cameron are only second-year players, but they have been excellent for us," Vickery pointed out.

While the Bears have been strong offensively, their stifling defence and star keeper are statistically tops in Canada West.

In eight games, the Bears have allowed a paltry four goals, thanks in large part to Jas Gill's tremendous play.

Gill, a former Edmonton Juventus standout, is making a case for some prestigious Canada West honours.

"We hope that with Jas's contributions, we will be defensively sound over the next six games. With Jas back-stopping, hopefully we can do what is needed to get into the playoffs."

The Bears take to the turf Saturday against Calgary, followed by a battle with Lethbridge Sunday, with both games going at 2 p.m. at Foote Field.

Soccer Pandas poised for postseason spot

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

Sitting in a tie for fourth place in the Canada West standings, the Pandas soccer team returns to the field this weekend after a bye week with matches against Manitoba and Regina at Foote Field. Alberta comes into the weekend with a conference record of 4-2-2, good for 14 points and a tie with Fraser Valley for the fourth and final Canada West playoff spot.

The bye week saw eight Pandas represent local club side Victoria United at the Senior Women's Nationals in Saskatoon, where that team captured the gold.

"The bye week is always a bit of a challenge, because you get into a routine of playing week after week, so it's kind of a moot point of whether it's good or bad — it's just kind of there," head coach Liz Jepsen explained.

The Pandas' winning streak stalled in their last weekend of action, as they played to draws against Fraser Valley and Victoria at home, ending a terrific string of games for Jepsen's crew. The Pandas will have to get back to their winning ways this weekend if they hope to separate themselves from three teams — all within four points — that are chasing them in the standings.

The weekend is especially key for the Pandas push to the playoffs since it's the team's final full weekend at the familiar confines of Foote Field.

"The league is so tight that dropping points at any time can be the thing that keeps a team from making playoffs, so a strong performance this weekend is going to be crucial for making sure we do everything we can to make it into playoffs."

The Green and Gold have had success this season against both Manitoba and



PETE YEE

PLAYOFF PUSH The Pandas are in a tight race for the fourth and final playoff spot.

Regina, as the Pandas beat both teams on their first road-trip of the season back in the middle of September.

"It's a good thing that we beat Manitoba, but I don't think we're overconfident," Jepsen said. "I think we're on the right track to understanding what it takes to beat them — that's what the last win provided and knowing that's what we have to bring back to the table, perhaps even better with them knowing that they've been beaten by us."

Alberta will be looking to leading

scorer Heather Lund, whose six goals are tied for second best in the conference, to continue her strong campaign and be a spark for the Pandas as they head into the home stretch of the regular season.

"She has a great last effort around the net, and she doesn't make a lot of mistakes when you put her in front of the net," Jepsen said of her leading scorer.

Action gets underway at high noon both Saturday when the Pandas take on Manitoba to open the weekend, and Sunday when the Cougars visit Foote Field.

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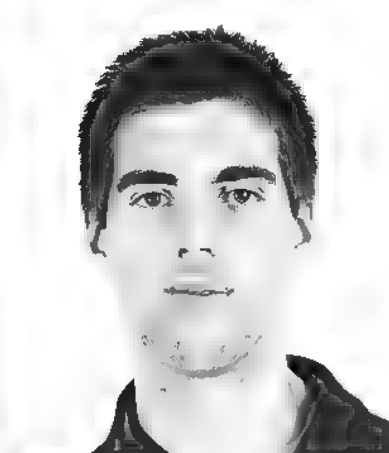
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Blue Jays in need of major overhaul

With another lost season in T.O., fans can only hope for big changes in 2010



EVAN
DAUM

Sports
Commentary

Without a meaningful baseball game in October since 1993, it's time for some big changes in Toronto. The lowly Toronto Blue Jays have become one of the most embarrassing franchises in baseball and have continued on a slow decline since the franchise's glory days in the early '90s. After another long season in 2009, speaking on behalf of the few fans that still follow the team religiously, there is but one solution to reintroduce some stability and excitement to the Jays — it's time to blow the organization up.

The team took a positive step firing general manager J.P. Ricciardi less than two weeks ago, but that was the easy move — now the tough decisions must be made by his replacement Alex Anthopoulos, who has a full slate in front of him without the dubious title of "interim" preceding his job title.

The Jays need an entire organizational makeover to change a culture

that has emerged in Toronto which constantly disseminates excuses to its fan base. The fact that the American League East is the toughest division in baseball will no longer be accepted by myself or any other fan — if you're not good enough to win the division or be one of the top two teams in the division and win the AL Wild Card, then you're never going to be good enough to win the World Series.

J.P. Ricciardi's downfall in Toronto was his overvaluing of assets — signing Alex Rios and Vernon Wells to big-time contracts after fleeting successes are the two obvious examples. Now Anthopoulos must step in and clean up the mess left by the man who gave him his start in the organization back in 2003.

Not only has the club lacked a play-off-contending team on the field, but the mess in the front office may be the bigger problem in Toronto. Paul Beaton has been serving as interim president since Paul Godfrey stepped down from the post after the 2008 season, meaning that the 2009 season was little more than a write-off for the entire franchise as they evaluated themselves. Without a full-time president, the organization had no chance to use 2009 as an opportunity to salvage a sinking ship.

The message to the organization

came this season in the form of attendance — the only way fans can truly voice their displeasure with the hope of bringing about change. With attendance down 6,000 on average from 2008, the fans have shown that the current state of the franchise is dire.

The problems don't only exist at the major league level for Canada's lone major league team. The Blue Jays troubles run deep throughout the organization, trickling all the way down to the team's AAA affiliate in Las Vegas. Though finishing with a respectable 71-73 record, that team ended up closing the season in the divisional cellar. Toronto's AA affiliate in New Hampshire, meanwhile, finished 14 games under .500. From top to bottom, it's time for an overhaul and that job will fall to Anthopoulos for what is on the field, while whoever is named president will be given the equally difficult task of attracting fans back to an organization that has seemingly accepted mediocrity.

With problems at the gate, on the field, and in the minors, it's going to be another rebuilding year in 2010 for the Jays. That should come as no surprise to Jays fans — after all it's been a rebuilding project year after year in T.O. since 1993.

sportsshots

Compiled by Matt Pretty
and Evan Daum

Bears Hockey

Eric Thurston's squad has a bye this week after securing three of a possible four points Thanksgiving weekend against Calgary. The Bears headed down the QE2 last Friday for their first road game of the season, and were eventually handed a 3-2 shootout loss to the Dinos. The Bears bounced back Saturday night at home, securing a decisive 9-2 win over their Alberta rivals. Friday marked Mark Howell's first game behind the bench for the Dinos, as the former Bear made his CIS coaching debut.

The Bears' next action comes next weekend when they will welcome archrival Saskatchewan to the Drake.

Wolansky CW Athlete of the Week

Bears defenceman Reade Wolansky picked up Canada West Male Athlete of the Week honours this past week for his five-point weekend against the Calgary Dinos in the Bears' home and home series with their southern rivals.

Wolansky is in his first season with the Green and Gold after spending 2007-08 playing college hockey south of the border with Sacred Heart University of the NCAA. A St. Albert native, Wolansky sits atop the Canada West in both rookie scoring and defenceman scoring four games into the season with eight points.

Pandas Field Hockey

The field hockey crew played a pair of games this past weekend against Victoria on the West Coast. Alberta played to a 1-1 draw on Saturday, but fell in the second game of the series 1-0 to the Vikes.

The Pandas head west of the Rockies again this weekend as they travel to Vancouver to take on UBC Saturday and Sunday.

Bears Basketball

The Bears basketball team travelled

east last weekend to Southern Ontario for a trio of games against OUA opponents. Alberta opened up the exhibition roadswing with a 69-61 loss to the Toronto Varsity Blues. The Bears then took on the McMaster Marauders Saturday, but fell by 14 points, losing 83-69. Greg Francis' team capped the trip off with a win; however, as they defeated the Ryerson Rams by a score 76-63 on Sunday.

The Bears' next action will come in a week's time as they will travel to Victoria for a trio of games against the Vikes.

Pandas Volleyball

The Pandas volleyball squad will be racking up the frequent flyer miles this weekend as they make their way to Montreal for a game against the University of Montreal Carabins on Thursday, followed by a pair of games against Laval Friday and Saturday. It will be the team's first game action in nearly two weeks, and their final preseason tune-ups before the regular season opens up next weekend against Calgary.

Bears Volleyball

The seemingly flawless Volley-Bears headed to Regina this past weekend for the Cougars preseason tournament, where they picked up four straight wins to claim top spot in the tournament.

The Bears beat Mount Royal 3-1, Saskatchewan 3-0, and Winnipeg 3-0 in the round-robin portion of the tournament before beating Calgary 3-2 in the semis. The Bears met Manitoba in the final, and beat the Bisons 3-2 to claim first place in the tournament.

Cross-Country

The Alberta cross-country crew will head east to Winnipeg for the Bisons Open at the University of Manitoba. Both the Bears and Pandas will be looking for a good showing to get into the CIS Top 10 — currently, Calgary is leading the conference at number-four nationally on the men's side and number-three on the women's. Victoria isn't far behind at number-five (men) and number-six (women), while Regina holds down the number-eight men's

spot, and the host Bisons come in at the number-nine women's spot. The starting gun will sound at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Golf

The Bears and Pandas golf club will fly to Vancouver Island for the University of Victoria Shootout. The host Vikes will hold the event at Cordoba Bay Golf Course, with tee-off at 8 a.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. Monday, and 10 a.m. Tuesday.



FILE PHOTO/NATALIERITOSA

Pandas Rugby

The number-five ranked Pandas rugby side (2-0) will travel south this weekend for two matches with major play-off implications. On Friday afternoon, they'll face the University of Calgary Dinos (0-3). New to CIS competition, the Dinos have not scored a point in three matches. That game will start at 4:30 p.m. The bigger test will come on Sunday when Alberta continues to Lethbridge to meet the top-ranked Pronghorns (3-0).

The 'Horns have won three matches while scoring 162 points and allowing none. Alberta's defence has also been perfect on the year, as the Pandas have allowed no scores while posting 46 points themselves. Kickoff for that game will be 3 p.m. Sunday, with the winner gaining the top seed for the Canada West Championships held here next weekend.

Pandas drop pair at Hoopfest

NATHAN LIEWICKI
Sports Staff

Sheer exuberance and a steady stream of energy filled the Main Gym in the minutes leading up to the basketball Pandas taking to the hardwood in their 2009 Hoopfest Invitational opener, but that enthusiasm didn't sustain itself throughout the entire weekend.

The Pandas needed a fourth-quarter rally to take their opening game against Bishop's University, eventually holding off the feisty Gaiters for a 54–50 triumph. On Saturday against the defending OUA Champion Windsor Lancers, the Pandas found themselves behind early and were no match for the taller Lancer forwards, losing 65–47. Sunday's contest with conference rival Regina was eerily similar to the game against Windsor, in which the Pandas lost by a count of 70–57.

Despite Alberta's lopsided losses in the final two games of Hoopfest, there was one shining star: fourth year guard Emily Boldoc. A native of Calgary, Boldoc led all Pandas in scoring with 12.7 PPG in the preseason

tournament and chipped in defensively as well.

"Emily really stepped up and showed some great leadership, and she was consistent with her effort all weekend long. She did not get down on herself after missing shots; [instead] she kept trying to knock shots down when she had the opportunity to. I am really proud of her," Pandas head coach Scott Edwards noted.

Solid play from a few players is rarely enough to propel teams to victory, and the Pandas will need more production on the offensive side of the ball if they're going to be competitive in Canada West. At Hoopfest, the Pandas shot less than 35 per cent from the floor in each of their three games — a problem associated more so with shot execution than with shot selection.

"We were not knocking down lay-ups and we had a bunch of jump shots, but we couldn't hit them and everyone starts feeling like it's all their fault," Edwards retorted. "This is not an experienced enough team to come and grind through these moments, so we have a lot of work ahead."

Even though the Pandas squad struggled to put points on the board against three highly skilled and highly polished teams, Edwards felt that his team did an admirable job on the defensive side of the ball.

"Outside of the third quarter [vs. Regina], I thought we defended very well for this early in the year, and I felt we were consistent with our efforts and we rebounded well for a small team."

Although they were being outplayed for a good portion of the weekend by the Lancers and Cougars, and trailing versus the Gaiters, the Pandas showed a lot of heart with their strong fourth quarter performances.

"Nobody likes to lose two games at their home tournament," Edwards said. "They really want to grind and play hard for each other and they showed that they will battle through adversity and those are good things going forward," Edwards explained.

The Pandas will round out their exhibition schedule October 23–25, when they will take on three more OUA teams at the Carleton Invitational in Ottawa.




LISA LIN

TOUGH TEST Nicole Clarke (left), went 3/10 from the field against Bishop's.

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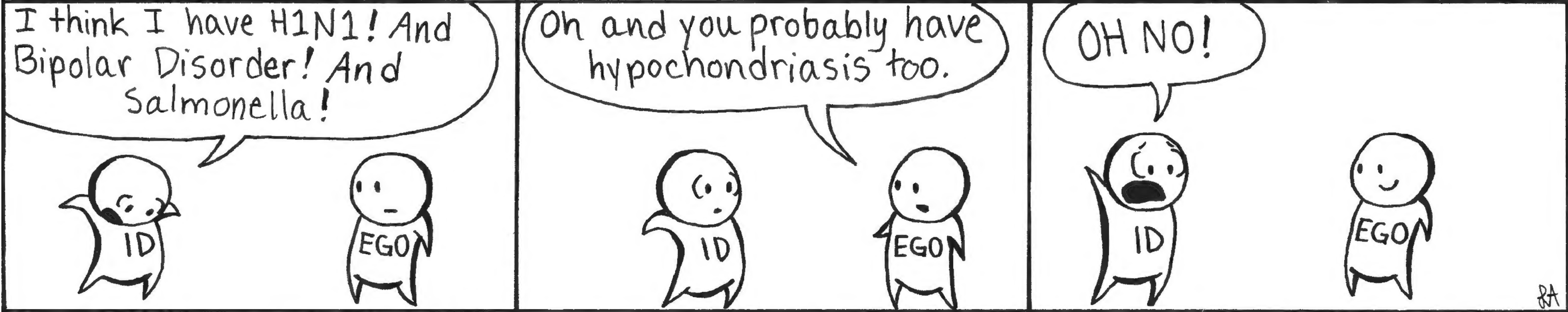
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Astronogirl to you. That's right boys — I'm
so sorry, but I'm officially off the market. This
past weekend, on one of the best days of my
life, Astronoboy and I tied the knot! This was a
marriage that was 18 years in the making. Way
back in grade four, at a small private school in
Halifax, an energetic young boy first introduced
me to Star Trek. I couldn't even have imagined
back then that almost two decades later I'd be
walking down the aisle towards him with Star
Wars music playing in the background. By the
way, we signed our documents to the theme
music from Voyager. I don't care what anyone

says, it's one of my favorite Treks!
Anyway, on to way less exciting things, like
the complete lack of sunspots for the past 13
days. What's up with that, sun?

Ah, who am I kidding? All I want to talk about
is my awesome wedding. It was so great!
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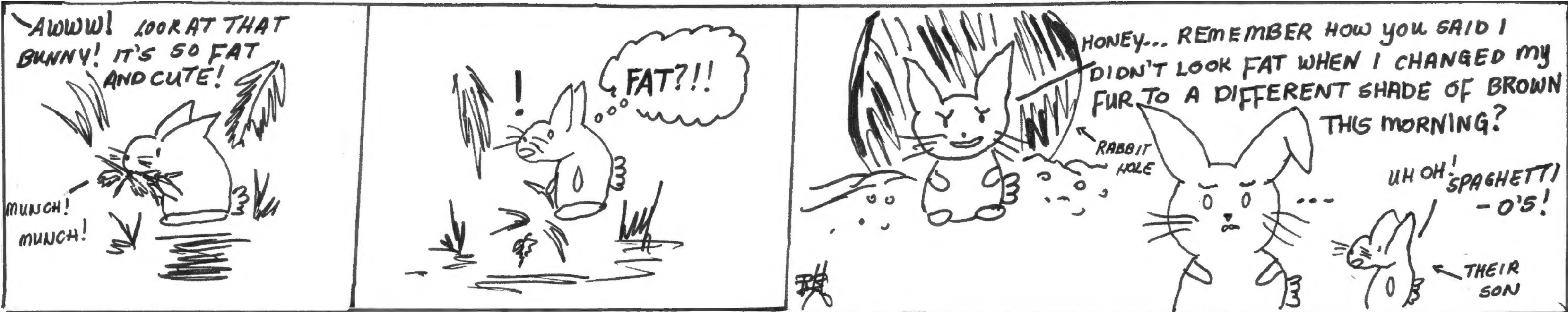
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